



The National Food Policy

Plan of Action **(2008-2015)**

**Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU)
Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to present you a copy of **National Food Policy Plan of Action, 2008** which was approved on 5 August 2008 by the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC).

The NFP Plan of Action (PoA) 2008 translates the provisions of the National Food Policy, 2006 towards achieving its three core objectives into 26 strategic areas of intervention, priority actions to be undertaken in the short term, medium term and long term over the period 2008-2015. It identifies responsible actors (government and non-government) and suggests a set of policy targets and indicators for monitoring progress. The document provides a set of guidelines regarding inter-ministerial coordination, sectoral planning and budgeting, with a view to promoting implementation effectiveness. It also gives an outline of the strategy for monitoring of progress.

The development of the PoA has been guided by three major principles: stakeholders' involvement, policy consistency and results-orientation. Thus, the PoA is the culmination of a set of iterative consultations and analytical work conducted jointly by the four Thematic Research Team (TRTs), (which involve representatives of 12 ministries/divisions/departments), FPMU (Food Planning and Monitoring Unit) wing staff and NFPCSP (National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme) team of national and international experts to address the four key dimensions of food security challenges, namely food availability, physical and social access of food, economic access to food and utilization of food for nutrition, as enshrined in the National Food Policy (NFP).

The PoA draws upon and extensive review of the strategic provisions contained in the NFP and their linkages with existing food-security relevant national and sectoral planning documents supplemented by several rounds of consultations with representatives of relevant partner ministries/agencies, including selected regional and local representatives, as well as non-government experts and practitioners. In this process, special emphasis has been placed on aligning the contents of the PoA with Bangladesh's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) titled "Unlocking the potential: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction" (NSAPR, 2005) and related monitoring framework for various reasons.

This document is meant to be considered as dynamic document that will be adjusted in improved as relevant, based on the results of monitoring activities, the experience gained in the process of its implementation, further reflections and stakeholders consultations at both national, regional and grassroots levels in the strategic fields and sectors covered under the various areas of interventions, as well as possible changes in the key factors affecting development prospects and conditions Bangladesh.



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABCN:	Area-Based Community Nutrition
ACF:	Agriculture Credit Fund
ADAB:	Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh
ADB:	Asian Development Bank
ADP:	Annual Development Programme
AEC:	Atomic Energy Commission
AEZ:	Agro Ecological Zone
AIDS:	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AIS:	Agricultural Information Service
AoI:	Area of Intervention
APB:	Actionable Policy Brief
ARI:	Acute Respiratory Tract Infection
ATI:	Agricultural Training Institute
AUs:	Agricultural Universities
BADC:	Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation
BANHRDB:	Bangladesh Applied Nutrition and Human Resource Development Board
BARC:	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
BB:	Bangladesh Bank
BBS:	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BBF:	Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation
BCC:	Behavior Change Communication
BDHS:	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey
BIRDEM:	Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation for Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders
BITAC:	Bangladesh Industrial and Technical Assistance Center
BIWTA:	Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority
BMD:	Bangladesh Meteorological Department
BMI:	Body Mass Index
BMS:	Breast Milk Substitutes
BMDA:	Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority
BNNC:	Bangladesh National Nutrition Council
BRAC:	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BRDB:	Bangladesh Rural Development Board
BSCIC:	Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation
BSTI:	Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution
BWDB:	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CAB:	Consumers Association of Bangladesh
CBN:	Cost of Basic Needs
CBOs:	Community-based Organizations
CDD:	Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases
CERDI:	Central Extension and Resource Development Institute
CFW:	Cash for Work
CHT:	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CIDD:	Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders
CMR:	Child Mortality Rate
CNG:	Compressed Natural Gas
CNS:	Child Nutrition Survey
CPD:	Center for Policy Dialogue
DAE:	Department of Agricultural Extension
DAM:	Department of Agricultural Marketing

DCI:	Direct Calorie Intake
DES:	Dietary Energy Supply
DGFP:	Directorate General of Family Planning
DGHS:	Directorate General of Health Services
DLS:	Department of Livestock Service
DoF:	Department of Fisheries
DPHE:	Department of Public Health Engineering
DU:	Dhaka University
EPI:	Expanded Program for Immunization
ERD:	Economic Relations Division
ESP:	Essential Services Package
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFW:	Food for Work
FIVIMS:	Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System
FPMC:	Food Planning and Monitoring Committee
FPMU:	Food Planning and Monitoring Unit
FPWG:	Food Policy Working Group
FS:	Food Security
FY:	Fiscal Year
GED:	General Economic Division
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
GO:	Government Organization
GoB:	Government of Bangladesh
GHP:	Good Hygienic Practices
GMP:	Good Manufacturing Practices
GMP:	Growth Monitoring and Promotion
GNCC:	GO-NGO Consultative Council
HACCP:	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
HIV:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HKI:	Helen Keller International
HNPSP:	Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme
ICDDR, B:	International Center for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh
ICCIDD:	International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders
ICG:	International Consultative Group
ICM:	Integrated Crop Management
ICT:	Information and Communication Technology
IEC:	Information, Education and Communication
IDA:	Iron Deficiency Anaemia
IDD:	Iodine Deficiency Disorders
IFST:	Institute of Food Science and Technology
IGAs:	Income Generating Activities
IGVGD:	Income Generation and Vulnerable Group Development
IMCI:	Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses
IMED:	Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division
IMR:	Infant Mortality Rate
INFS:	Institute of Nutrition and Food Science
IPM:	Integrated Pest Management
IPH:	Institute of Public Health
IPHN:	Institute of Public Health Nutrition
LEAF:	Livelihoods, Empowerment & Agro-Forestry Project
LCG:	Local Consultative Group
LGD:	Local Government Division

LGED:	Local Government Engineering Department
LGI:	Local Government Institution
MDG:	Millennium Development Goals
MIDAS:	Micro Industries Development Assistance and Services
MIS:	Management Information System
MICS:	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MMR:	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MMT:	Million Metric Ton
MoA:	Ministry of Agriculture
MoC:	Ministry of Commerce
MoE:	Ministry of Education
MoEF:	Ministry of Environment and Forest
MoF:	Ministry of Finance
MoFDM:	Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
MoFL:	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
MoHFW:	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MoI:	Ministry of Industries
MoInfo:	Ministry of Information
MoL:	Ministry of Land
MoLE:	Ministry of Labour and Employment
MoLGRDC:	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
MoLJPA:	Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
MoP:	Ministry of Planning
MoS:	Ministry of Shipping
MoSICT:	Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology
MoSW:	Ministry of Social Welfare
MoWCA:	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MoWR:	Ministry of Water Resources
MoYS:	Ministry of Youth and Sports
MOU:	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME:	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MTBF:	Medium Term Budgetary Framework
MTMF:	Medium Term Macroeconomic Framework
NAEP:	National Agriculture Extension Policy
NAP:	National Agriculture Policy
NARS:	National Agricultural Research System
NBR:	National Board of Revenue
NCBs:	National Commercial Banks
NFA:	National Fortification Alliance
NPFP:	National Poverty Focal Point
NFP:	National Food Policy
NFPCSP:	National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
NIPORT:	National Institute of Population Research and Training
NMR:	Neonatal Mortality Rate
NPAN:	National Plan of Action for Nutrition
NPK:	Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash
NPO:	National Productivity Organization
NSP:	Nutritional Surveillance Project
NSAPR:	National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction
NWG:	Nutrition Working Group
ODA:	Overseas Development Assistance
OMS:	Open Market Sale

PDB:	Power Development Board
PFDS:	Public Foodgrain Distribution System
PKSF:	Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation
PoA:	Plan of Action
PRSP:	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RD:	Research Director
R&D:	Research and Development
RDA:	Recommended Dietary Allowances
RDCD:	Rural Development and Co-operative Division
REB:	Rural Electrification Board
RKUB:	Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank
SAAO:	Sub Assistant Agricultural Officer
SAARC:	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACS:	Special Agricultural Service Center
SCA:	Seed Certification Agency
SCITI:	Small and Cottage Industries Training Institute
SCN:	Standing Committee on Nutrition
SME:	Small and Medium Enterprise
SPFS:	Special Programme for Food Security
SRDI:	Soil Resource Development Institute
SVRS:	Sample Vital Registration System
TFR:	Total Fertility Rate
TRT:	Thematic Research Team
TVET:	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN:	United Nations
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
UP:	Union Parishad
USAID:	United States Agency for International Development
USI:	Universal Salt Iodization
VAD:	Vitamin A deficiency
VAM:	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
VGD:	Vulnerable Group Development
VGf:	Vulnerable Group Feeding
WARPO:	Water Resource Planning Organization
WASA:	Water and Sewerage Authority
WATSAN:	Water and Sanitation
WB:	World Bank
WFP:	World Food Programme
WFS:	World Food Summit

OVERVIEW

*“Attaining food security will be possible through a coordinated implementation of the programmes of all concerned ministries and agencies as set in the plan of action framed in the light of the approved food policy with assistance from the coordinating ministries”,
National Food Policy, 2006, Section A- Preamble.*

The **National Food Policy (NFP)** endorsed by the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC) and thereafter approved by the Cabinet in August 2006, provides strategic guidance on the way to address the key challenges facing Bangladesh in achieving food security in all its dimensions, including food supply and availability, physical, social and economic access to food, as well as nutrition/utilization of food, as embedded in its three core objectives, namely:

NFP Objective 1: Adequate and stable supply of safe and nutritious food

NFP Objective 2: Increased purchasing power and access to food of the people

NFP Objective 3: Adequate nutrition for all individuals, especially women and children

The PoA translates the provisions of the NFP towards achieving its three core objectives into 26 strategic areas of intervention, priority actions to be undertaken in the short term, medium term and long term over the period 2008-2015, identifies responsible actors (government and non-government) and suggests a set of policy targets and indicators for monitoring progress.

The document also provides a set of guidelines regarding inter-ministerial coordination, sectoral planning and budgeting, with a view to promoting implementation effectiveness. It also gives an outline of the strategy for monitoring of progress. It is meant to be a “dynamic” document that will be adjusted and improved as relevant, based on the results of monitoring activities.

As foreseen in the NFP (see NFP preamble) with particular reference to the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC), the PoA shall be the guiding document for coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the NFP by all responsible ministries and agencies¹.

¹ Indeed, referring to the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee, the NFP (2006) states that “Representatives of all ministries associated with food security activities (e.g. the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Finance and Planning, Agriculture, Fishery and Livestock, Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives, Women and Children Affairs, Health and Family Welfare) will be in this committee, so that progress on all aspects of food policy can be discussed to give necessary directives to formulate food policy related-programs” (NFP, 2006, Section E).

A. Approach to NFP PoA development

In line with the National Food Policy (2006), the Plan of Action (PoA) of the NFP (2006) has been prepared by four Thematic Research Teams (*food availability; physical and social access to food; economic access to food; nutrition/utilization of food*), involving officials of 11 line ministries/agencies, under the leadership of the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) of Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) and overall guidance of the Food Policy Working Group (FPWG).

The National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Program (NFPCSP), implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been assisting the FPMU/ TRTs with the preparation of the PoA, including provision of methodological support to the policy review work and drafting of the PoA document, as well as facilitation of related FPMU/TRT meetings, technical seminars and workshops.

Policy consistency: The PoA builds upon a comprehensive review of the NFP strategic provisions and their linkages with the PRSP (Unlocking the Potential: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction, NSAPR), and most recent policy and planning documents of line ministries. This policy review work was meant to ensure consistency of the PoA with existing strategic plans of line ministries².

Consultative process: The preparation of the PoA involved iterative consultations with officials of partner ministries/divisions deputed to the FPWG/TRTs. With a view to strengthening consensus on the NFP PoA contents, the FPMU, MoFDM, organized three enlarged seminars in April-May 2007 to review the action agendas towards achieving the three core objectives of the NFP. A technical workshop was held on 30 May to discuss the contents of a more comprehensive version of the document, including action agenda, implementation and monitoring strategies. The workshop brought together more than 50 representatives of partner ministries, NGOs, the academia and Development Partners was held on 30 May 2007. The PoA document was revised based on the discussion outcomes of the workshop and submitted to the FPWG meeting held on 17 July 2007 for further review. The meeting endorsed the document, subject to some amendments which were subsequently reflected in a revised version of the document dated 13 August 2007, including provisions on the possibility of periodically revising the PoA based on monitoring outcomes, and mainstreaming of PoA priorities into national/sectoral planning and budgeting. The document was revised accordingly and formally submitted by the DG FPMU to the Secretaries of 12 ministries/divisions represented in the

² The PoA has been developed in light of the short/medium term priorities and “future priorities” agenda of the current PRSP (FY05-FY08). It should be noted that the provisions of the PoA remain consistent with the provisions of the first draft of the PRS II (FY09-FY11) – GED, May 2008- whilst the latter document also includes specific references to the NFP (2006) and its Plan of Action.

Food Planning and Monitoring Committee and/or Food Policy Working Group for comments. As of January 2008, comments were received from 8 ministries/divisions over the period November-early January and, upon request of FPMU, were incorporated in a revised version of the document (30 January). Upon recommendation of the Adviser Food, MoFDM, a “validation workshop” was held on 15 May 2008 to review and endorse the overall amendments made to the PoA document made since the first broad based consultation held in May 2007. The workshop brought together high officials of the MoFDM, MoA, and MoF, FPMU officials and other practitioners of the MoFDM, MoA, MoLGRDC and Ministry of Planning, as well as representatives of the donor community. Additional suggestions made by the participants have been incorporated in the present document

Result-orientation: In line with the log-frame approach, the action agenda set forth under the 26 strategic areas of intervention identified in the PoA (see below) is linked with specific (policy) targets and performance indicators, as well as a set of assumptions regarding factors that may affect implementation effectiveness. **The PoA Matrix (Part II of the PoA)** thereby provides the basic framework for implementing, coordinating and monitoring of the NFP.

(For more details, see PoA Section I.3.1)

B. PoA key Areas of Intervention, priorities for action (targets), and implementation responsibilities

The PoA covers 26 areas of intervention for achieving the 3 core objectives of the NFP, as shown in the table below:

Table 1 - PoA- Key areas of Intervention, priorities for action and responsible ministries

PoA Areas of Intervention (AoIs)	Priorities for action* <i>See PoA Part I, Section I.3, par I.3.2, and PoA Part II</i>	Responsible ministries**
NFP Objective 1 : Adequate and stable supply of safe and nutritious food		
1.1. Agricultural Research and Extension	Developing and disseminating demand-driven crop and non crop new technologies; Expanding demand-led and pro-poor extension services	MoA, MoFL
1.2. Use and Management of Water Resources	Increasing irrigation coverage; improving delivery and efficient use of safe irrigation water; Reducing dependency on ground water; reducing cost of irrigation water	MoA, MoL, MoWR

1.3. Supply and sustainable use of agricultural inputs	Increasing supply of quality crop and non-crop seeds, timely supply of fertilizers and balanced use of fertilizers; Increasing efficiency and sustainability of agricultural land use; effectively regulating the use of agricultural land for non- agricultural purposes; Improving availability and affordability of agricultural machinery and equipment; Strengthening Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Crop Management (ICM) practices	MoA, MoFL, MoL, MoEF, MoI, MoC
1.4. Agricultural Diversification	Increasing and improving management of production of high value crops, fish and livestock products.	MoA, MoFL, MoL
1.5. Agricultural Credit and Insurance	Increasing formal credit to agriculture, especially small and marginal farmers; Improving coverage of financial loss due to production failures	MoF, BB
1.6. Physical Market infrastructure development	Improving private storage, market and transportation facilities, improving market connectivity at local, national and international levels	MoA, MoF, MoLGRDC, MoC, MoFDM, MoS
1.7. Agricultural Marketing and Trade	Reducing marketing costs of agricultural products and strengthening market integration	MoA, MoFDM, FPMU, MoSICT,
1.8. Policy/Regulatory Environment	Updating, enacting and enforcing legislation regulating food markets	MoF, MoA, MoC, MoLGRDC, MoLJPA
1.9. Early Warning system development	Establishment of well-functioning domestic Early Warning System integrated/ coordinated with the global Early Warning System	MoFDM/FPMU, MoSICT, MoLGRDC, MoA, MoC
1.10. Producer Price Support	Enhancing effectiveness of the public procurement system; providing effective support to producer price during post harvest seasons	MoFDM/FPMU, MoF, MoC, MoSW
1.11. Public Stock Management/Price Stabilization	Improving public stock management, public storage facilities and capacities and enhancing effectiveness of OMS operations	MoFDM, MoF, MoC, MoSICT
NFP Objective 2: Increased purchasing power and access to food of the people		
2.1. Agricultural Disaster Management	Enhancing disaster preparedness and post-disaster rehabilitation in agricultural systems	MoFDM, MoA, MoFL, MoL, MoLGRDC, MoF
2.2. Emergency food distribution for public stocks	Improving coverage and effectiveness of emergency distribution programs	MoFDM, MoSW, MoA, MoC, MoF, MoHFW
2.3. Enabling Environment for Private Food Trade and Stock (see 1.8)	See Areas of Intervention #1.6, 1.7, 1.8	- see 1.6 to 1.8
2.4. Effectiveness of targeted food security programs and other safety nets	Improving coverage of vulnerable and disadvantaged people and areas (esp. <i>Monga</i> - prone areas); targeting; cost- effectiveness; reducing leakage; enhancing adequacy to vulnerable people's nutritional needs.	MoFDM, MoSW, MoWCA, MoLGRDC, MoHFW, MoF

2.5. Income generation for women and the disabled	Enhancing participation of women and disabled people in rural agricultural and other rural activities	MoWCA, MoLGRDC, MoA, MoFL, MoSW, MoLE
2.6. Agro-based/agro-processing/MSMEs development	Supporting the expansion agro-based/agro-processing industries and Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises (MSMEs)	MoA, MoF, MoFL, MoI, MoLGRDC, MoWCA
2.7. Market driven education, skills and human development	Enhancing quality of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) to meet skill requirements of domestic and international markets	MoLE, MoYS, MoI
NFP Objective 3 Adequate nutrition for all individuals, especially women and children		
3.1. Long term planning for balanced food	Establishing LT targets for physical growth, standard food and nutrient intake for different population groups and an integrated plan for attaining standard food intakes targets	MoFDM, MoA, MoFL, MoHFW
3.2. Balanced and nutritious food for vulnerable people	Increasing availability of low-cost items through local production; Improving coverage of poor, distressed and vulnerable women and children by food-based nutrition programs, including Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP).	MoFDM, MoP, MoA, MoFL, MoEF, MoWCA, MoSW, MoLGRDC, MoF
3.3. Nutrition education on dietary diversification	Increasing the % of women educated in nutrition and primary health care activities through formal and non-formal education; increasing home gardening and poultry raising activities by poor households	MoHFW, MoA
3.4. Food supplementation and fortification	Increasing coverage of vitamin A, coverage and compliance of iron-folate supplementation and coverage of households with adequately iodized salt	MoHFW, MoFDM, MoSCIT, MoA, MoFL, MoEF, MoWCA, MoI, MoF, MoLaw, MoP
3.5. Safe drinking water and improved sanitation	Ensuring safe water and sanitation facilities availability and accessibility for all by 2010.	MoHWF, MoLGDRDC
3.6. Safe, quality food supply	Enhancing access to safe and quality food, for domestic consumption and also for international trade.	MoHWF, MoI, MoLGDRDC, MoS ICT
3.7. Women and children Health	Increasing primary health care (PHC) and antenatal care (ANC) coverage, skilled attendance at birth; improving access to health services; promoting healthy lifestyles and behaviour.	MoHWF, MoWCA, MoP
3.8. Promotion and protection of breastfeeding and complementary feeding	Strengthening exclusive breastfeeding practices; expanding practice of breastfeeding; ensuring safe and nutritious complementary feeding; strengthening baby-friendly hospital initiative; increasing maternity leave; enforcing Breast Milk Substitutes (BMS) Codes among breast milk substitute marketers.	MoHWF, MoWCA, MoSW, MoC, MoInfo, MoE

*As derived from PoA targets; ** the PoA Matrix also identifies specific divisions and government agencies as well as non government actors

**Highlighted in bold are responsible ministries represented in FPWG and/or the TRTs

C. PoA implementation and monitoring

Implementation Actors and Coordination (PoA Section I.4.1 and I.4.2):

Responsibilities for implementing the PoA action agenda are diluted among various line ministries and other non-government stakeholders, highlighting the need for establishing effective coordination mechanisms.

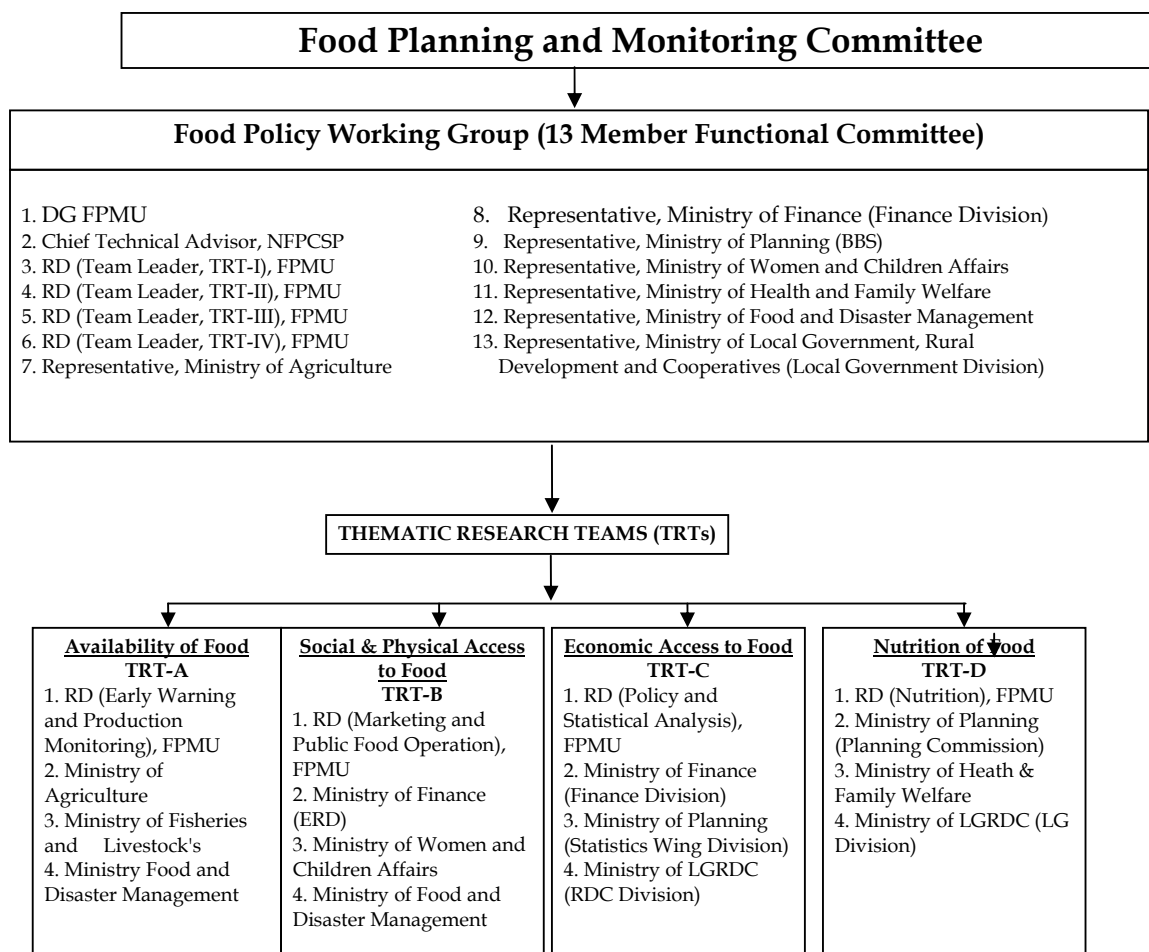
As regards *inter-ministerial coordination*, the PoA emphasizes the critical role of the FPWG and the MoFDM/FPMU/TRTs. Under the guidance of the FPWG, the MoFDM³/PMU/TRTs shall contribute to promote inter-ministerial and inter-agency dialogue and follow-up on the implementation of the PoA, including information-sharing/discussions on sectoral planning and budgetary processes *viz.* PoA priorities, as well as monitoring of progress towards PoA targets. FPMU/TRTs' support to the PoA implementation and monitoring activities shall follow annual work plans, to be established in a participatory way by the FPMU/TRT members under the guidance and supervision of the FPWG.

The PoA also underscores *coordinating with fellow implementing partners and agencies from the Civil Society and the private Sector, as well as Development Partners*. In particular, it underscores the role of the Economic Relation Division of the Ministry of Finance in promoting the effective implementation of the PoA, through coordinating and ensuring linkages between PRSP-related external assistance and PoA external assistance requirements.

Monitoring strategy outline (PoA Section I.5): The institutional monitoring strategy outlined in the PoA provides for developing and implementing monitoring plan (s) (to be reflected in annual FPMU/TRT work plans) that shall assign FPMU/TRT members with specific responsibilities for monitoring progress towards PoA policy targets and outcomes, including data gathering, data analysis, organization of stakeholder consultations, delivery and dissemination of monitoring reports and other outputs. It also underscores establishing collaborative relationships with other food-security relevant monitoring initiatives and/or sources of information, especially those relating to the monitoring of the PRSP and the MDGs, including the National Poverty Focal Point under the General Economics Division and the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the Ministry of Planning, as well as the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics⁴.

³ As stated in the NFP (2006) preamble, "the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management will carry out its own programs; in addition, it will ensure extending out support to all concerned ministries and agencies in implementing their own food security related strategies and programs".

⁴ The establishment of a formal partnership between the FPMU and the GED is recommended in order to support an effective institutionalization of PoA monitoring activities within the broader PRS/MDGs monitoring framework



Key assumptions (PoA Section I.6): The document underscores continuous political commitment towards food security and poverty reduction, adequate implementation and coordination capacities, enabling macro-economic and fiscal framework, including domestic and external resource mobilization, continuous progress on PRSP agenda for local governance, as key assumptions underpinning the effective implementation of the NFP and its PoA.

INTRODUCTION

The Plan of Action (PoA) of the National Food Policy (2006) has been developed by four Thematic Research Teams (TRTs), under the leadership of the Food Policy Working Group (FPWG), with the concurrence and leadership of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM)/Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) and the technical support of the FAO National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme (NFPCSP).

The development of the PoA has been guided by three major principles: stakeholders' involvement, policy consistency and results-orientation. Thus, the PoA is the culmination of a set of iterative consultations and analytical work conducted jointly by the four Thematic Research Teams (TRTs), FPMU staff and NFPCSP team of national and international experts. The TRTs, which involve representatives of 12 ministries/divisions/departments, including MoFDM and FPMU, have been established by the NFPCSP to address the four key dimensions of food security challenges, namely food availability, physical and social access to food, economic access to food and utilization of food for nutrition, as enshrined in the National Food Policy (NFP).

The PoA draws upon an extensive review of the strategic provisions contained in the NFP and their linkages with existing food-security relevant national and sectoral planning documents (see Appendix 1), supplemented by several rounds of consultations with representatives of relevant partner ministries/agencies, including selected regional and local representatives, as well as non-government experts and practitioners.

In this process, special emphasis has been placed on aligning the contents of the PoA with Bangladesh's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) titled *"Unlocking the Potential: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction"* (NSAPR, 2005) and related monitoring framework for various reasons. First, the PRSP has been elaborated through a consultative process and already integrates food security-relevant agendas for action of many line ministries. Second, the PRSP is guiding the Annual Development Programme (ADP) and budgetary allocation processes under the Medium Term Budgetary Framework, which is now followed by 14 line ministries. Third, as reiterated in the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Committee for Monitoring Implementation Progress of the PRS (2007), the PRSP will continue to serve as the key anchorage for development partners' support and coordination. Finally, many stakeholders consulted in the course of the PoA development recommended alignment with the PRSP to avoid placing additional burdens among line ministries and agencies, given current capacity constraints.

The PoA Matrix (see Part II) consolidates the outcomes of this extensive review and consultative process in a "log-frame" type of format, which is meant to

provide a basic framework for coordinating and monitoring food security interventions at all levels in order to achieve the NFP core objectives over the period 2008-2015, in line with the time-horizon set for meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This document is meant to provide the basic reference for guiding the implementation and coordination of food security efforts in the country. It should be considered as a dynamic document that will be adjusted and improved as relevant, based on the results of monitoring activities, the experience gained in the process of its implementation, further reflections and stakeholder consultations at both national, regional and grassroots levels in the strategic fields and sectors covered under the various areas of interventions, as well as possible changes in the key factors affecting development prospects and conditions in Bangladesh⁵.

Effective delivery on the NFP PoA is conditional upon a range of internal and external factors that will need to be carefully monitored, including continued commitment towards achieving food security goals and the MDGs, enabling macro-economic/fiscal framework, strengthened *coordination and collaboration* within and between Government agencies, at national and local level, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)/non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the private sector, academia, development partners, as well as adequate monitoring mechanisms.

The document is divided in two parts. The first part provides an overview of the PoA background, development process, contents, implementation and monitoring dimensions. The second part consists of the PoA Matrix.

⁵ The PoA has been developed in light of the short/medium term priorities and “future priorities” agenda of the current PRSP (FY05-FY08). It should be noted that the provisions of the PoA remain consistent with the provisions of the first draft PRS II (FY09-FY11) – GED, May 2008- whilst the latter also includes specific references to the NFP (2006) and its Plan of Action.

PART I - NARRATIVE

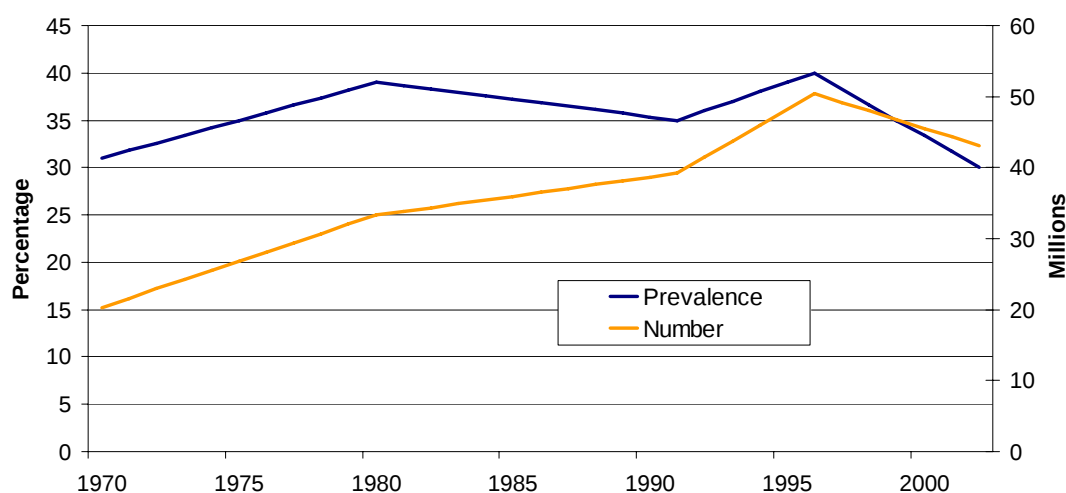
The first section briefly reviews the major achievements and challenges facing Bangladesh in the area of food security. The second section provides an overview of the NFP major thrusts and priorities, as well as its linkages with the MDGs. The third section summarizes the key methodological aspects of the PoA preparation and introduces the PoA Matrix, recalling the key targets and main contents of the action agenda proposed under the priority areas of intervention identified. The fourth section provides an overview of the main implementation actors and highlights major coordination needs. The fifth section provides an outline of the institutional strategy for monitoring the PoA. The last section discusses a set of major assumptions conditioning the effective implementation of the PoA across all areas of intervention.

I.1. The Food Security Context

I.1.1. Meeting the WFS and MDG food security targets

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) is strongly committed to the World Food Summit (WFS) target of reducing the number of undernourished people by half by 2015 and the MDG1 target of eradicating hunger and poverty by halving the proportion of people in the world who are undernourished and living on less than \$1 a day.

Figure 1 – Prevalence and Number of Undernourished People in Bangladesh (1970-2002)

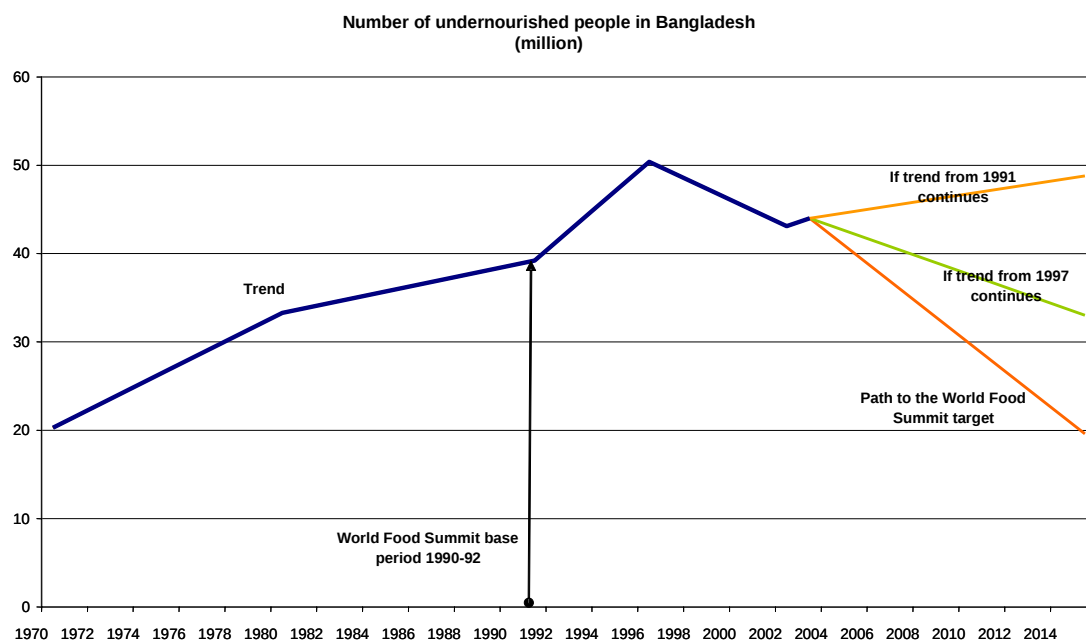


Source: FAO

Bangladesh past efforts towards improving food security have resulted in a 5% point decrease in the proportion of undernourished between 1990-1992 and 2002-2004 down to 30%. However, mainly due to population growth, the number of undernourished actually increased from 39.3 million to 44 million (**Figure 1**).

Based on population projection of 181.4 million in 2015, attaining the MDG hunger target implies that the number of undernourished people must decrease to 31.8 million. Meeting the WFS hunger, i.e. reducing the number of undernourished to 19.65 million by 2015, implies that the MDG1 target needs to be overachieved with the proportion of the undernourished brought down to 11% (see Figure 2).

Figure 2 – Number of Undernourished People: past trends and future perspectives



Source: FAO, data for the average 2002-2004 are preliminary estimations

I.1.2. Achievements, challenges and emerging issues

Bangladesh has made substantial progress in enhancing food security by increasing production of foodgrains, particularly rice, improving infrastructure, making food delivery to the poor more efficient and liberalizing agricultural input and output markets (removal of food rationing and abolishment of the monopoly in import and export of food grains).

Rice has contributed most to self-sufficiency in foodgrain, currently accounting for 71 percent of the gross cropped area and for 94% of the foodgrain production. Rice production gains have been mainly driven by an increased use of irrigation water, expanded use of other agricultural inputs along with an increased

coverage of high-yielding and modern rice varieties. However, the sustainability of domestic foodgrain production remains an issue. Rice cannot be expected to experience the growth rate of the past without net technological breakthrough. Furthermore, demographic pressures and increased urbanization have caused cultivated area to decline at a rate of one percent per year, whilst cropping intensity has virtually reached its limit.

Landholdings are small and scattered, and foodgrains continue, to a large extent, to be cultivated for subsistence. Small and marginal farmers represent 80% of all farmers. Only a limited percentage of crops circulate through commercial channels. This also results in a situation where, despite efforts, foodgrain procurement remains prone to wide fluctuations and sizeable foodgrain imports are needed. In the last five years, total annual imports of foodgrains have ranged between two to three million tons. Imports consist mainly of wheat, whose production has been continuously reducing over the past years, with rice accounting for about half million tons per year.

Also, the emphasis placed on rice production has resulted in an increased dependency on imports for non foodgrain commodities, such as pulses, oilseeds and fruits which remain unaffordable to many consumers, especially poor consumers. For instance, 70% of the pulses and 66% of the edible oil requirements are currently imported (Mishra and Hossain, 2005)⁶. Traditionally, the two most important non-cereal foods for the poor were fish and pulses. Due to crop substitution⁷, the national supply of pulses decreased substantially, and the poor substituted cereals for pulses with negative nutritional implications especially for children, pregnant and lactating women. Furthermore, rice monocropping causes the nutrient depletion of the soil.

Arsenic contamination has become a major concern for both agricultural sustainability and food safety⁸. Climate change poses an additional burden on food security, especially in areas where agriculture and water resources are already under stress due to adverse meteorological conditions.

In this context, strengthened efforts to raise productivity and efficiency in foodgrain production, to support agricultural commercialization and diversification, in due consideration of environmental impacts (agricultural conservation), will be paramount. Actions are needed on many fronts, including agricultural technology development, input (seeds, fertilizers, irrigation,

⁶ Mishra, U. & Motahar Hossain, S.A.K. (2005). *Current food security and challenges- Achieving 2015 MDG milestone*. In Proceedings of the National Workshop on Food Security in Bangladesh. Dhaka. 19-20 October 2005.

⁷ Pulses are primarily a winter (dry season) crop and with the spread of irrigation, *boro* (winter) rice (which under irrigation is a considerably less risky crop to grow than pulses) can be substituted. *Boro* production has been rising steadily while the area devoted to pulses has been declining and the cost of lentils is also rising now amounting to more than three times the price of rice (see Government of Bangladesh (2000) Comprehensive food security policy for Bangladesh, Dhaka).

⁸A. Heikens, 2006, Arsenic contamination of irrigation water, soil and crops in Bangladesh: Risk implications for sustainable agriculture and food safety in Asia, "FAO, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok".

machinery) supply and access expansion, and, critically, rural financing, which currently stands far below rural producers' needs, especially those of small and marginal farmers⁹. Renewed diversification efforts need to be backed-up by clear understanding of the relative profitability of competing crops, physical and location-specific conditions for non-crop enterprises, the supply chain of high value products and provision for processing, storage and marketing activities, as well as by a clear appraisal of international trade opportunities.

As suggested by Bangladesh poverty reduction performance, especially in the recent period, achievements in the enhancement of people's economic access to food have also been significant. Poverty incidence has markedly decreased in both rural and urban areas and this favorable trend holds whatever the methodology used (Cost of Basic Needs or Direct Calorie Intake) for measuring poverty¹⁰.

Still, many poor and vulnerable households, whether food producers or not, do not have food security because they are unable to afford a minimum basket of food items through their own food production, cash income, market purchases and other resources necessary to acquire safe and nutritious food.

In rural areas, poverty incidence remains especially high among households headed by a member working in agricultural sectors (48.2%) as well as among landless rural households (66.6%) (BBS, Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) - based figures). The *undernourishment*-focused Direct Calorie Intake (DCI)-based poverty data indicate that the recent decline in "hardcore poverty"¹¹ (from 20% to 19.5%) and in "ultra-poverty"¹² (from 8.2% to 7.8%) has been less impressive than the decline in absolute poverty (from 47.5% to 40.4%), suggesting that many people tend to be "trapped" in the vicious cycles of hunger and poverty.

Notwithstanding differences in measurements, poverty data also suggest salient inequalities in access to food between different locations. It has been estimated that 79% of the aggregate reduction in the CBN-based poverty headcount is attributable to two divisions, namely Dhaka and Chittagong (see World Bank, 2007¹³), highlighting the need for regional strategies to tackle food insecurity. Furthermore, access to food continues to be highly unequal within households, with adult males getting preference over women and children.

⁹ Agricultural credit disbursements by banks recorded an eleven-fold increase between 1980-81 and 2003-04 but have remained insignificant as a proportion of total credit disbursement and well below target. Furthermore, most of credit goes to medium and large farmers, see R.A Sarker, 2006, *"Rural financing and agricultural credit in Bangladesh: future development strategies for formal sector banks"*, The University Press limited.

¹⁰ BBS - CBN-based data indicate a decrease in poverty incidence from 48.9% in 2000 to 40% in 2005.

¹¹ % of people living under 1805 Kcal per day

¹² % people living under 1600 Kcal per day

¹³ World Bank, 2007, *"To the MDGs and Beyond: Accountability and Institutional Innovation in Bangladesh"*, Bangladesh Development Series, Paper N°14, WB Office Dhaka.

The contribution of agricultural sectors to the GDP in 2003-04 was 22.83 % at 1995-96 constant prices, while they provided over 72 % of the total employment. About 85 % of the population lives in rural areas and continues to depend largely, whether directly or indirectly, on agriculture for its livelihood. Many rural areas lack education and health resources. They also lack of modern food and grain storage facilities and adequate roads leading to larger market areas. Only 19 % of rural homes have electricity.

Thus, concerted efforts to ensure a sustainable and equitable development of agricultural and rural sectors, especially agro-based industries and Micro Small and Medium sized Enterprises¹⁴ (MSMEs), will be key to food security in the foreseeable future. Such efforts appear all the more compelling since increasing landlessness and underemployment in rural areas and resulting rural-urban migration act as major drivers of chronic poverty and food insecurity in urban areas.

Also, large segments of the population remain vulnerable to transitory food insecurity caused by drought, floods, cyclones and other natural disasters, which, in many instances, results in highly adverse adjustments to their means of livelihoods (indebtedness, selling of assets, etc...) due to the lack of coping capabilities.

This highlights the need for strengthening risk reduction, disaster preparedness and management at all levels, including communities and households. Furthermore, the seasonal food crisis that continues to occur, before the harvest of *aman* rice each year in the northern region of Bangladesh (*monga* or near famine situation), despite safety net programs, is of particular concern and need to be remedied by adequate interventions to address the shortage of employment/income-generating opportunities during lean seasons.

Another element of transitory food insecurity arises from food price instability, as experienced recently with rice and other essential commodities. Managing food price risks in an increasingly liberalized environment entails specific challenges that need to be addressed. Public stock management in Bangladesh remains a tricky task, often compounded by the existence of a mismatch between domestic food production, food imports and internal procurement activities. This underscores performing information/early warning systems as an important tool for managing transitory food insecurity. Meanwhile, price stabilization efforts require a careful balancing of poor consumers' and poor producers' interests.

¹⁴ The growth of MSMEs has been phenomenal in Bangladesh and since the late 1980s has accounted for the bulk of employment generation in the informal sector whilst contributing to about 25% of total GDP. Micro and small industries (employing between one and five workers) alone account for 77% of MSMEs' total contribution to GDP. Source: International Consulting Group (ICG)/Micro Industries Development Assistance and Services (MIDAS) Survey, 2003.

Thus, achievements in the areas of food availability and access, whilst impressive, need to be consolidated by multi-pronged policy efforts to address remaining issues and emerging challenges. There is also the fact that past achievements have not translated into improved nutritional outcomes. The food consumption trends are not encouraging and diets remain poorly diversified, with as much as 80% of the dietary energy supply coming from rice. Whilst child malnutrition rates (by weight for age) have markedly declined in the 1990s from 68% (1983) to 47% in 2005, they remain among the highest in the world. Physiological Vitamin A deficiency still affects 30% of children and women¹⁵, iron deficiency anaemia affects nearly 50% of the total population¹⁶ and iodine deficiency affects 36% of women and children¹⁷.

Malnutrition from macro and micronutrient deficiencies in early life has long lasting effects on subsequent growth, morbidity, cognitive development, educational attainment, and productivity in adulthood.

Moreover, there is evidence that malnutrition prevalence in Bangladesh is not confined to poorer households. Whilst child malnutrition is generally higher among the poorest quintiles (46-50%), it is also high among the richest income quintile (33%)¹⁸. Thus, whilst many poor household are not able to access a variety of (nutritious) foods, richer households tend to spend more on food, but not on more nutritious foods, which results in significant deficiencies in protein, Vitamin A and iron¹⁹.

This implies that strategies to improve availability, supply and accessibility of more diversified foods, although paramount, need to be complemented by a set of *non-income* focused policy measures that promote the utilization of a diversity of foods, including efforts to promote positive food behaviour, access to clean water and proper sanitation which are all intricately linked to sound nutrition. Differentials within households as regards access to food, nutrition, health care and primary education determine to a large extent the differing nutritional status of individual household members. Where access to resources is more equally shared across sexes, health and nutrition outcomes are significantly better.

¹⁵ HKI/IPHN (2003) Nutrition and health surveillance in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh

¹⁶ BBS/UNICEF (2004) Anemia Prevalence Survey of Urban Bangladesh and Rural Chittagong Hill Tracts - 2003

¹⁷ IPHN/BSCIC/DU/UNICEF/ICCIDD (2007) National IDD and USI Survey of Bangladesh, 2004/5 (in press).

¹⁸ World Bank, 2007 "To the MDGs and Beyond: Accountability and Institutional Innovation in Bangladesh", Bangladesh Development Series, Paper N°14, WB Office, Dhaka, January.

¹⁹ Helen Keller International and Institute of Public Health Nutrition 2006, "Bangladesh in Facts and Figures: 2005", Annual Report of the Nutritional Surveillance Project", Dhaka Bangladesh, Hellen Keller International.

I.2. The National Food Policy (NFP, 2006): Overview

The National Food Policy approved by the Cabinet in August 2006²⁰ has been formulated by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) to ensure, in coordination with partner ministries, development partners and NGOs a “dependable and sustained food security for all people of Bangladesh at all times”.

Box 1. Developing the National Food Policy (NFP, 2006)

The National Food Policy (NFP, 2006) represents a follow-up to the **National Food Policy of 1988**, the goal of which was to ensure food security for all people by increasing food production and attaining self-sufficiency. The focus was therefore nearly exclusively on maintaining a balance between aggregate supply and total requirements, overlooking the other key facets of food security. The **National Food and Nutrition Policy** formulated in 1997 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was a first attempt to address this shortcoming by including food diversification, health and nutrition as key areas of intervention for the national food security system.

In April 1999, at the Development Forum meeting held in Paris, it was suggested that the Government of Bangladesh develop a Comprehensive Food Security Policy. A Joint Task Force was subsequently formed in 1999 and three inter-ministerial subcommittees were put in place to report on availability, access and nutrition/food utilization policy challenges, respectively. After thorough review of the existing policies and programs, the Task Force produced a **Comprehensive Food Security Report (July 2000)**, which outlined a set of key recommendations for building a dependable food security system. The **National Food Policy (NFP, 2006)** elaborates on this strategic outline, whilst emphasizing the important inter-relationships existing between availability, access, and nutrition outcomes.

The development of the NFP involved several rounds of consultations and subsequent revisions, with a first draft produced in 2001 and a revised version in 2004. Its finalization benefited notably from a consultative Workshop on Food Security in Bangladesh jointly organized by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and WFP in October 2005 which contributed to lay down tentative “action plans” for addressing food availability, access and nutrition/utilization challenges, which also fed into the PRSP (Policy matrix 8, Food Security, *see Box 2*).

It represents an unprecedented effort to consolidate and harmonize existing policy frameworks and actions for addressing food security challenges in all their dimensions (food availability, access to food and nutrition/utilization of food), whilst addressing emerging issues (*see Box 1*).

²⁰ See Annex: The National Food Policy, 2006

The NFP framework is articulated around three core objectives/outcomes and twelve more specific objectives/strategic lines of action:

FOOD AVAILABILITY AND SUPPLY STABILITY

Objective 1: Adequate and stable supply of safe and nutritious food:

- Efficient and sustainable increase in food production
- Efficient food markets
- Non-distortionary foodgrain market intervention for price stabilization

PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ACCESS TO FOOD

Objective 2: Increased purchasing power and access to food of the people

- Transitory shock management
- Effective implementation of targeted food assistance programs
- Employment generating income growth

NUTRITION/UTILIZATION OF FOOD

Objective 3: Adequate nutrition for all individuals, especially women and children

- Long-term national plan for ensuring balanced food in building a healthy nation
- Supply of sufficient nutritious food for vulnerable groups
- Balanced diet containing adequate micronutrients
- Safe drinking water and improved sanitation
- Safe quality food supply
- Adequate health status

I.2.1. NFP main thrusts and priorities

The NFP has also been developed with special reference to the Bangladesh Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) titled “*Unlocking the Potential: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction*” (NSAPR)²¹, which was adopted in 2005 as the main umbrella framework for guiding and coordinating medium-term efforts towards reducing poverty and achieving the MDGs.

Whilst food security concerns were to a large extent mainstreamed into the PRSP under several of its strategic blocks and related policy matrices (see Box 2), the NFP is meant to provide a *more focused and more detailed* agenda for reducing both chronic and transitory food insecurity and tackle malnutrition.

²¹ GED, Planning Commission, GOB 2005, “Unlocking the Potential: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction”, October.

Thus, within the broader framework of the PRSP, the NFP underscores a sub-set of strategic medium/long term and short-term options that can symbiotically deliver on poverty and food security:

In the long run, the NFP underscores:

(i) *Linking agricultural productivity and diversification with improvements of nutritional standards* through a three-pronged approach: raising productivity and efficiency of production for major cereals, diversifying into non-cereal crops, including pulses, oilseeds and higher value horticultural crops²² (fruits, vegetables, spices) as well as expanding fishery, livestock and poultry production.

(ii) *Improving productivity of smallholder agriculture*, especially through enhancing access of small and marginal farmers to improved, demand-driven extension services, as well as irrigation, credit, and modern inputs.

(iii) *Promoting sustainable agriculture practices* with focus on expanding Integrated Pest Management, use of bio-fertilizers, water conservation, soil and water testing, greater use of surface water along with technological development to minimize salinity.

(iv) *Promoting efficient food markets* with focus on physical infrastructure development (constructing and maintaining road that link producers and markets, reducing transportation costs, electrification for irrigation and cold storage, development of market centers), marketing infrastructure (including private storage, market information systems); and the creation of an enabling regulatory environment.

(v) *Promoting non-farm activities that exhibit strong “agricultural linkages”*, i.e. agro-based/agro-processing industries.

(vi) *Expanding income generating opportunities for women/female-headed households and the disabled in agricultural activities as well as in rural micro and small enterprise development*, through enhancing their access to productive assets.

(vii) *Fostering skill and human development with focus on employability (market-driven skill development)*

(viii) *Addressing instability inherent to agricultural and other rural activities through strengthening disaster preparedness, improving early warning/monitoring systems for effective food planning, stock and trade management as well as*

²² Rising imports of horticultural products in Bangladesh indicate large domestic demand that the local market cannot yet satisfy in terms of quality and seasonal availability.

introducing risk management tools for small farmers and rural micro-entrepreneurs²³.

Box 2. Food Security and the PRSP

Particular attention has been paid to mainstreaming food security concerns in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (*"Unlocking the Potential: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction"*)²⁴. The Food Planning Monitoring Unit of the MoFDM took part in this effort through participation in the PRSP thematic group on rural development, food security and safety nets.

Food security is identified as a key goal under PRSP strategic block on "Critical sectors for pro-poor economic growth" (Strategic Block II – Rural Development). Under this block, the PRSP also underscores strengthening and consolidating on-going nutrition and fortification efforts. Nutrition concerns are addressed more comprehensively under the health sector strategy (Strategic Block IV - Human Development - Health). The PRSP also gives prominence to the issues related to food safety, food quality, healthcare, and safe water and sanitation for all, with special emphasis on children's needs.

As regards food availability and access dimensions, the policy thrust of the PRSP is on ensuring affordable food supply through efficiency gains in agricultural production, distribution and trade as well as enhancing the purchasing power of the poor, through diversifying and expanding income opportunities at large. The main body of the PRSP text prioritizes technology development and the creation of an enabling environment for private sector participation along with efforts to improve coverage and effectiveness of social safety nets.

Food price stabilization policies are not explicitly considered in the main text but have been, nonetheless incorporated under PRSP Food Security Policy Matrix 8²⁵, which provides a basic roadmap for improving security, along the strategic lines defined in the Comprehensive Food Security Report (July 2000). This includes creating an enabling framework for food security (food security policy formulation, food safety policy), assuring low cost food supply, smoothing fluctuations in food consumption, increasing purchasing power and entitlement of the poor, ensuring better food utilization and more nutritious food for all, particularly the poor.

As a complement to the above long-term oriented options, the NFP emphasizes:

(ix) *Managing food price instability to preserve poor farmers' incentives and the purchasing power of poor consumers.* Whilst underscoring the role for the private sector (in food trade and storage activities in particular) in food security efforts, the NFP provides for timely price stabilization interventions and consumer price support along with an adequate management of private food imports.

²³ It is however worth noting that the main text of the PRSP remains 'silent' on such short-term oriented policy measures, although these are mentioned in the Policy matrix relating to Food Security (Policy Matrix 8).

²⁴ GED, Planning Commission, GOB 2005, *"Unlocking the Potential: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction"*, October.

²⁵ For the list of PRSP Policy Matrices see Appendix 1.

(x) *Addressing immediate food security needs among all vulnerable groups and areas by improving the targeting, coverage and effectiveness of food based and non-food based targeted programs and other safety nets*²⁶.

Finally, the NFP recognizes that efforts to ensure stable food supply and expand overall access to more diversified food, although paramount, may not suffice to reduce malnutrition and emphasizes:

(xi) *Reducing malnutrition through integrated and multi-sectoral set of general and targeted interventions*, geared towards raising consumption of nutrient-rich foods especially among vulnerable groups, promoting positive food habits and appropriate food behaviour, promoting and protecting breast feeding, improving infant and young child feeding practices and health, improving food safety and hygiene, sanitation, improving access to safe drinking water as well as addressing the threat of arsenic contamination of underground water and improving overall access and coverage of women and children to sanitation and health facilities. Acknowledging that women's lack of knowledge about right nutrition and child care strongly correlates with their educational levels, the NFP also emphasizes strategies to support maternal education and literacy as of paramount importance to ensuring good nutrition.

I.2.2. The NFP and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, with indicators showing that Bangladesh is "on track" to reach 100% enrolment rates and gender equality in primary and secondary education and in significantly reducing child and maternal mortality

Evidence suggests that food security and nutritional well being improves human potential, and reduces poverty by boosting productivity throughout the life cycle and across generations. Thus, the NFP agenda on sustainable and pro-poor agricultural and rural development, food diversification, women and vulnerable groups' empowerment, skill development, sanitation, health and nutrition, is forcefully supportive of the overarching **Millennium Development Goal on poverty and food security (MDG1)**, and will clearly underlie progress towards many other MD Goals.

In particular, efforts to improve smallholder agricultural productivity, strengthen agricultural linkages within the rural economy will have direct impacts on the incomes of the rural poor, whilst increased and more diversified food production shall contribute to better diets and improvements of nutritional outcomes.

²⁶ Regarding targeting of vulnerable areas, the NFP recommends considering a wide range of criteria, including employment opportunities, level of infrastructure and agricultural development, and the incidence of natural calamities (see NFP, p.15).

The NFP agenda on enhancing rural women's participation in agricultural activities, promoting women's entrepreneurship, is fully aligned with **MDG3 (Promote gender equality and empower women)**. Meanwhile, women and children represent the key target groups of the overall NFP policy agenda on nutrition and utilization of food, which, coupled to food diversification and income-generation efforts, will be clearly instrumental for **improving maternal health (MDG5)**, and **reducing child mortality (MDG4)**. Poor nutrition is implicated in more than half of all child deaths worldwide and is intimately linked with poor health and environmental factors. Targeting nutrition improvement actions for children particularly in the first year of life is strategically important because malnutrition in infancy is the genesis of malnutrition in pre-school age and is also directly or indirectly associated with most child deaths.

Also, efforts to enhance aggregate food supply and access coupled to more specific measures for empowering women and households, improving maternal and child health and nutrition, shall together contribute to improving the chances that a child will go to school, stay in school and perform, thereby supporting progress towards **MDG2 (Achieve universal primary education)**.

Finally, in line with **MDG7 (Ensure environmental sustainability)**, environmental sustainability has been effectively mainstreamed into the NFP agricultural policy agenda for enhancing food supply and also biodiversity.

For highlights of the PoA-MDG linkages by area of intervention, see Table 2, in 1.3.2.

1.3. The NFP Plan of Action (PoA 2008-2015)

As noted earlier, the NFP Plan of Action builds upon an extensive review of the NFP provisions and their linkages with existing food-security relevant national and sectoral planning documents (see Appendix 1), supplemented by several rounds of consultations with relevant partner ministries/agencies as well as non-government stakeholders. The main outcome of this process has been the elaboration of the "PoA Matrix" (see Part II), which forms the core of the PoA and provides the basic framework for its monitoring. The section briefly describes the key methodological aspects of the PoA development and the key elements of the Action Agenda set forth in the PoA Matrix.

1.3.1. Developing the PoA

The PoA Matrix (*see part II*) identifies key areas of intervention and lists the priority actions that will be undertaken by ministries, government agencies and other national and international stakeholders during the implementation phase. In line with the log-frame approach to the PoA, under each area of intervention,

priority actions are linked to a set of key policy targets, indicators, as well as specific timeframes. The matrix also points to a set of assumptions reflecting potential constraints on the effective implementation of proposed set of actions and subsequent achievement of the key related targets. Section VI below highlights other major assumptions that have cross-cutting implications for the implementation of the PoA.

Thus, the PoA matrix is meant to provide a workable basis for monitoring progress towards the key targets set for each area of intervention and the broader outcomes embedded in the three NFP core objectives.

Box 3. The PoA consultative and drafting process

(i) More than 100 consultative meetings between FPMU directors and staff, the Thematic Research Themes (TRTs) were organized on a weekly or bi-weekly basis from September 2006 to August 2007, with facilitation by the NFPCSP Technical Assistance Team to discuss and proceed with the drafting of the PoA. Those iterative consultations were supplemented, as relevant, by meetings with other key stakeholders within and outside the government.

(ii) Three technical seminars involving representatives of key partner ministries/divisions, including representatives of partner ministries not represented in the TRTs/FPWG (e.g. Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Labour and Employment) were held on 19 March, 28 March and 4 April 2007 to discuss and the action agenda (the Plan of Action Matrix) for achieving the NFP Objective 1, 2 and 3, with a particular focus on ensuring consistency with partner ministries' sectoral priorities and strategic planning documents.

(iii) Based on comments and suggestions received, a first draft of the NFP Plan of Action (Narrative + Matrix) was elaborated and discussed further in a broader consultative workshop on 30 May 2007, which brought together more than 60 representatives of partner ministries, NGOs, as well as the donor community.

(iv) A revised draft capturing the outcomes of this broader consultation was then submitted to the FPWG in July 2007 for further review and endorsement. Additional recommendations of the FPWG, regarding notably PoA implementation guidelines, were incorporated in a third draft of the PoA (August 2007).

(v) The ensuing version of the document was submitted by FPMU to the Secretaries of 12 partner/ministries represented in the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC) and/or FPWG in September 2007 for their final review. Comments/ suggestions received from 8 ministries/divisions, namely, MoFDM, MoA, MoP (BBS Agricultural Wing, Planning Division, IMED, MoLGRDC (LGD and RDC divisions), MoF (ERD) were subsequently reflected, as relevant, in a revised version of the document (January 2008).

(vi) Upon recommendation of the Adviser Food, MoFDM, a "validation workshop" was held on 15 May 2008 to review and endorse the overall amendments made to the PoA document made since the first broad based consultation held in May 2007. The workshop brought together high officials of the MoFDM, MoA, and MoF, FPMU officials and other practitioners of the MoFDM, the MoA, MoLGRDC and Ministry of Planning, as well as representatives of the donor community. Additional suggestions made by the participants have been incorporated in the present document.

Consultative process: Whilst the PRSP has given an impetus to a “multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder” approach to addressing poverty reduction and human development challenges, the “sectoral approach” is still predominant, following which, each line ministry continues, to a large extent, to set policies and priorities without reference to ministries that have related mandates. This inevitably results in a number of gaps, inconsistencies and duplications, highlighting the need for strengthened consultative and coordination processes within and between responsible government agencies.

The development of this PoA involved regular interactions between FPMU staff, partner ministries’ officials represented in the TRTs, and the NFPCSP technical assistance team, to discuss and get a common understanding of the NFP strategic contents and their relationships with sectoral planning documents and on-going projects and programs, as well as methodological issues related to the PoA Matrix development.

More specifically, drafts of the PoA matrices relevant to each of the three NFP core objectives were prepared based on the findings of the aforementioned policy review work, as well as additional inputs received from various partner ministries, as part of the iterative consultations of the TRTs.

The contents of the PoA matrices, including targets, actions, performance indicators, were discussed further and refined by the TRTs through a set of broader consultations organized under the leadership of the MoFDM/FPMU in the form of seminars/workshops that brought together representatives of key partner ministries, including some not represented in the FPWG/TRTs, various NGOs, national policy experts, supplemented by individual meetings with other key stakeholders. The ensuing first comprehensive version of the PoA (August 2007) was submitted to the Secretaries of partner ministries/divisions represented in the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee and/or FPWG for a final review with comments/suggestions received reflected, as relevant, in the present document (see Box 3, for more details on the PoA consultative and drafting process).

Whilst the strategic provisions of the NFP document places significant emphasis on addressing the specific constraints and challenges facing marginal farmers, landless people, and other vulnerable groups (women, children), as well as disadvantaged geographical areas (chars, haors, hills), the consultation process, notably with NGO representatives, food security researchers and practitioners, provided additional feedback on the food security context at local/grassroots level that helped refine the PoA action agenda.

For more details on the consultative process (see Box 3)

Identifying key areas of intervention (programmatic areas): Compared to other policy documents, the NFP provides a relatively detailed set of guidelines regarding both priority areas for intervention and key action lines (especially in relation to its core objectives 1 and 3). Thus, the key areas of intervention (programmatic areas) listed in the PoA are essentially those proposed in the NFP. However, a few adjustments have been made, on the basis of policy consistency considerations as well as the outcomes of the consultative process.

Thus, following consultations with stakeholders, NFP's broad provision on the "Adoption of macro-policy for broad-based labor intensive growth", has not been singled out in the PoA matrix as a key area of intervention. Indeed, the overall "agriculture/rural development-led growth" paradigm underpinning the NFP and its PoA is precisely about broad-based labor intensive growth. Rather, many enabling macro-policy actions (regarding fiscal, trade and financial/credit policies in particular) are referred to in relation to specific areas of intervention. Meanwhile, the NFP does not contain clear-cut provisions regarding the macro-economic framework for food security. Implications of the Bangladesh macro-economic framework set forth in the PRSP for the implementation of the PoA are briefly discussed in section VI below.

Another NFP strategic proposal on promoting "employment-enhancing technology" turned out to diverge from those made in MoA planning documents (specifically the APB, 2006), which underscore promoting small-scale mechanization, a process currently underway. The rationale for small-scale mechanization lies in the need to increase productivity in a context of rural labor shortage. Indeed, due to this shortage, many farmers face problems in completing agricultural operations, especially during the planting harvesting and threshing periods. Small agricultural machinery such as the power tiller, rice-wheat thresher, are therefore considered as alternative ways to manage labor storage and keep crop production at a high and economic level.

Also, many stakeholders consulted during the PoA development process recommended incorporating those issues in the PoA, given their cross-cutting importance from the view point of sustainable agricultural production and food security. Thus, in line with the NAP (1999), the Land Use Policy (2001) and further recommendations of the Agricultural Sector Review (see Actionable Policy Brief, 2006, pp. 41-43), the PoA underscores the protection of agricultural land, the optimal use of land based on agro-ecological characteristics as key dimensions of its agenda for promoting the sustainable use of agricultural inputs (see Area of Intervention 1.3 below).

Finally, the promotion and protection of breastfeeding and complementary feeding, although not prioritized in the NFP document, has been identified as a key area of intervention under the PoA towards achieving Objective 3, in line with National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1997) and the National Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding in Bangladesh (2006).

Action agenda and policy linkages: As noted earlier, the PoA builds upon an extensive review of the linkages between the NFP and existing food-security relevant policies and other strategic frameworks, including PRSP policy matrices, but also sectoral action plans, especially those developed in the wake of the PRSP formulation. Accordingly, for most of the actions spelled-out in the PoA matrix for each area of intervention, explicit references are made to the relevant strategic documents/plans they originate from.

Major policy/planning documents referred to include:

- PRSP specific policy matrices and their medium-term and future agenda
- The National Agriculture Policy (NAP, 1999) Plan of Action (2004)
- The National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) Plan of Action (1995-2010)
- The Actionable Policy Brief (APB) (2006)
- The National Plan for Disaster Management Plan (2007-2015)
- The National Land Use Policy (2001)
- The National Rural Development Plan (NRDP, 2001)
- The Industrial Policy/ SME Policy (2005)
- The National Food and Nutrition Policy (1997)
- The National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1997)
- The Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HNPPS)(2006-2010)
- The National Health Policy (2000)
- The National Women Development Policy (2004, draft)
- The Bangladesh Pure Food (Amendment) Act (2005)
- The National Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding in Bangladesh (2006)

This is meant to facilitate follow-up and coordination of the PoA implementation and monitoring processes (see below). Consistency of the PoA with on-going and planned food security relevant policy efforts has been further scrutinized in light of the strategic and result-oriented information (including stated medium-term targets and performance indicators) contained in the planning documents which were being prepared by partner ministries under the Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF), at the time the PoA was formulated.

Whilst many proposed actions are subsequently referring to existing programs, others will, however, require new projects/programs to be formulated on the basis of practical experience, current knowledge and capacity.

Cross-cutting areas of intervention and actions: Given the close interrelationships between the three core objectives of the NFP, there are a number of interventions/actions that can clearly serve one or more of the NFP objectives. These have been highlighted in the PoA matrix with a view to stressing their particular importance, as well as for internal consistency purposes (e.g. development of early warning and forecasting system and private storage can help food availability and stability of supply and relieve accessibility constraints).

Targets, indicators and action timeframes: For each area of intervention, key policy targets have been spelled out based on the contents and the NFP, relevant PRSP policy targets/goals and specific objectives enshrined in MTBF related medium term planning documents. The PoA matrix proposes a set of “Output indicators” (to measure progress towards the policy targets) and “Input indicators”, as relevant (to measure progress in the implementation of particular actions towards achieving the targets). These draw extensively upon the set of indicators suggested in the PRSP Monitoring and Evaluation framework (PRSP Annex 3). Thus, as for the PRSP, the list of indicators remains suggestive and shall be refined as part of the monitoring process (see Section V).

The PoA also proposes a tentative set of outcome indicators related to each of the NFP core objectives.

Ideally, the matrix should provide clear benchmarks as well as progress and terminal quantified target indicators, as relevant, at the outcome level as well as for all areas of intervention so that outcomes and implementation progress can be systematically monitored. However, quantified policy target indicators cannot be set arbitrarily and require a thorough assessment of baseline conditions and what is achievable within defined time-horizons given capacity and financial constraints, as well as consensus among responsible actors. Furthermore, in rapidly changing environments, targets may require adjustments. Thus, in the present document, official benchmarks and targets, such as various MDG-related targets in the areas of nutrition, health/safe water sanitation and poverty reduction have been retained as references for monitoring the PoA at the outcome level. Quantification of many of the policy target indicators suggested under the various areas of intervention of the PoA (output level) - *e.g. % increase in maize, potato, pulses, oilseeds vegetables, fruits and spices production by 2015 (Aol#1.4 Agricultural diversification); % increase in the number of women engaged in agriculture by 2015 (Aol#2.5 Income generation for rural women and disabled people); % increase in the number of women educated in nutrition and health care services by 2015 (Aol#3.3 Nutrition education for dietary diversification)* - is expected to take place as part of partner ministries’ medium term planning exercises under the MTBF, in line with current practices. Whenever available and as relevant, these quantified medium term targets would be referred to as part of PoA monitoring process (see Section V).

Differences in timeframes of existing sectoral planning documents and disseminated evidence regarding the implementation status of food security relevant projects and programs placed significant constraints on setting timeframes for, and thus accurately *prioritizing* over time the various actions covered by the PoA. Meanwhile, consultations with stakeholders were mostly focused on reviewing the consistency of targets and actions and indicators. Information contained in the PRSP policy matrices regarding on-going and short-term-medium term oriented interventions and future priorities, as well as in

MTBF-related planning documents, was used as primary reference for attributing timeframes. The PoA distinguishes between priority actions in the ST/MT (FY07-08 to FY10-11) and for MT/LT (FY10-11 to FY14-15), whilst also highlighting actions with continuous priority over the whole period. Timeframes provided in the PoA matrix, shall be considered as indicative only²⁷.

I.3.2. Action Agenda: Overview

The following paragraph provides an overview of the strategic elements of the PoA matrix (see Appendix 1) in terms of key targets, priority lines of action for the short-term/medium term (ST/MT) and medium term/long term (MT/LT) under the 26 areas of intervention covered by the PoA (see Part II - PoA Matrix)²⁸. Linkages with the MDG1 and other MDGs are given in Table 2.

Table 2- PoA-MDG linkages

PoA Areas of Intervention (AoIs)	MDG ²⁹
NFP Objective 1 : Adequate and stable supply of safe and nutritious food	
1.1. Agricultural Research and Extension	MDG1
1.2. Use and Management of Water Resources	MDG 1, MDG 7
1.3. Supply and sustainable use of agricultural inputs	MDG 1, MDG 7
1.4. Agricultural Diversification	MDG1
1.5. Agricultural Credit and Insurance	MDG1
1.6. Physical Market and infrastructure development	MDG1
1.7. Agricultural Marketing and Trade	MDG1
1.8. Policy/Regulatory Environment	MDG1
1.9. Early Warning system development	MDG1, MDG8
1.10. Producer Price Support	
1.11. Public Stock Management/Price Stabilization	
NFP Objective 2: Increased purchasing power and access to food of the people	
2.1.Agricultural Disaster Management	MDG1
2.2.Emergency food distribution for public stocks	MDG1
2.3. Enabling Environment for Private Food Trade and Stock (see 1.8)	MDG1
2.4.Effectiveness of targeted programs and other safety nets	MDG1, MDG3
2.5.Income generation for women and the disabled	MDG1, MDG3
2.6.Agro-based/agro-processing/ Micro and Small enterprise development	MDG1, MDG3
2.7.Market driven education, skills and human development	MDG1, MDG2, MDG3
NFP Objective 3 Adequate nutrition for all individuals, esp. women and children	
3.1.LT planning for balanced food	MDG1, MDG4, MDG5, MDG6
3.2.Balanced and Nutritious food for vulnerable	MDG1, MDG4, MDG5, MDG6

²⁷ Since the core of the PoA document was developed in 2007, some of the actions recommended in the ST/MT, but especially in the short term, such as those derived from the current PRSP agenda (2005-2008) are presumably at an advanced stage of implementation.

²⁸ For an overview of PoA linkages with NFP core objectives see Appendix 2.

²⁹ MDG1 (Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger); MDG2 (Achieve universal primary education); MDG3 (Promote Gender Equality and empower Women); MDG4 (Reduce Child Mortality); MDG5 (Improve Maternal Health); MDG6 (Combat HIV/AIDs, malaria and other diseases); MDG7 (Ensure environmental sustainability); MDG8 (Develop a global partnership for development).

people	
3.3.Nutrition education on dietary diversification	MDG1, MDG4, MDG5, MDG6
3.4.Food supplementation and fortification	MDG2, MDG4, MDG5
3.5.Safe drinking water and improved sanitation	MDG1 – MDG7
3.6.Safe, quality food supply	MDG1,
3.7.Women and Children Health	MDG1, MDG2, MDG3, MDG4, MDG5, MDG6
3.8.Promotion and protection of breast-feeding and complementary feeding	MDG1, MDG2, MDG4

NFP Objective 1: Adequate and stable supply of safe and nutritious food

Area of Intervention # 1.1: Agricultural Research and Extension

Agricultural performance improvements will be driven by higher yields of rice, wheat, and other traditional crops and diversification into higher value-added crop and non-crop products. Therefore, active extension services are needed to disseminate appropriate research-supported technologies to farmers. Whilst much has been initiated already, strengthened efforts are needed to meet local information and technology needs across the country, to better address constraints facing small and marginal farmers, disseminate information, strengthen links between research and extension, as well as accountability mechanisms.

Target(s): Demand-driven crop and non crop new technologies developed and disseminated; demand led and pro-poor extension services expanded.

Action Agenda: Under this area of intervention, the PoA calls for strengthening research and extension to introduce modern technologies and actively promote their dissemination through need-based extension service in crop and non-crop sectors. In the ST- ST/MT, it recommends a thorough assessment of the existing linkages between research and extension services and identification of areas for improvement. It also provides for increased investment in research (both crop and non-crop) to upgrade research facilities and enhance the skills of the scientists involved in research. In the MT/LT, the PoA emphasizes strengthening of bio-technology related research including their application, focusing attention to Agro Ecological Zones and specific rain-fed production systems. In the area of extension, it recommends introducing new extension methods (e.g demo farms, farmer schools), along with necessary training; in line with its demand driven and pro-poor approach, it also calls for expanding community based extension and training system and strengthening GO-NGO-private sector collaboration for extension delivery in the ST/MT. In the MT/LT, the PoA underscores setting up of a Special Agriculture Service Center (SACS) and the extension of the Livelihoods Empowerment and Agro-Forestry model (LEAF) at *upazila* level and strengthening institutional mechanisms for coordination between research and extension, through the establishment of an Advisory Committee.

Area of Intervention # 1.2: Use and Management of Water Resources

Irrigation is as important as fertilizers, especially for HYV rice and other crops such as wheat, potatoes, and for short winter season crops. The area under irrigation in Bangladesh increased from 7.3 million acres in 1992-993 to 11.5 million in 2003-04. However, further improvements in coverage need to be backed-up by a sustainable use and management of water resources, given soil, land, agricultural engineering and other constraints. The intensive and increasing use of shallow tube well irrigation has led to a lowering of the water table in many areas of the north and north-western regions. The quality of groundwater is also deteriorating because of excessive use of chemical pesticides, whilst arsenic contamination of crops has also become an issue.

Target(s): *Increased irrigation coverage; improved delivery and efficient use of safe irrigation water; reduced dependency on ground water; reduced cost of irrigation water.*

Action Agenda: To ensure effective use and water management, recommended actions in the ST/MT primarily involve strengthening on-going efforts to facilitate access to irrigation equipment, develop market-oriented policies for the development of small- irrigation systems, and to intensify training of farmers and agricultural workers in order to improve the use of irrigation water and on-farm water management. In line with sustainability and safety concerns, the PoA also recommends increasing the number of water treatment plants and continuous monitoring of arsenic contamination and a continuous expansion in the use of surface water relative to ground water. It also recommends implementing a set of policy and institutional measures including, rationalizing water pricing by different irrigation holders, and restructuring the irrigation wing of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADDC). In the MT/LT, the PoA calls for mainstreaming irrigation programs in the major flood control projects and exploring possibilities of replacing diesel engine with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) operated engines, as well as ensuring uninterrupted power supply. These actions are in line with the PRSP, the APB (2006), MoA-Medium Term Plan, and MoFL-PRSP Roadmaps (2006).

Area of Intervention # 1.3: Adequate Supply and Sustainable Use of Agricultural Inputs

Agricultural diversification and productivity enhancements are conditional upon the efficient delivery of agricultural inputs, including quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, equipment. Persisting problems such as lack of timely availability, poor quality, and high price, especially in remote rural areas, need to be carefully addressed. Making an efficient and sustainable use of agricultural inputs, especially, fertilizers, pesticides and land, is equally critical. The increasing population in Bangladesh has propelled the expansion and intensification of non-agricultural use of land, including settlements, industrial and infrastructure developments etc., along with the encroachment and conversion of land from one use to another. This needs to be addressed through adequate management of land resources, based on proper regulations and adequate land use planning mechanisms.

Target(s): Increased supply of quality crop and non-crop seeds, timely supply of fertilizers and balanced use of fertilizers; Increased efficiency and sustainability of agricultural land use; Agricultural land use for non- agricultural purposes effectively regulated; Agricultural machines and equipment available at affordable prices; strengthened Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Crop Management (ICP).

Action Agenda: In line with PRSP, the APB (2006), the National Seed Policy, MoFL Roadmaps for implementing the PRSP, the PoA of the NAP (1999) and the MoA medium term plan, the PoA calls for strengthening the supply of foundation and breeder seeds to registered seed producers, supporting private sectors for seed development and trade, undertaking farmer's level seed production program. In the fishery sub-sector, the PoA underscores developing hatchery regulations and regulating the use of chemicals and in the livestock sub-sector, to promote the production of quality feed and alternative feed. In both sub-sectors, it is also recommended to reduce in-breeding practices on a continuing basis. In the MT/LT, the PoA emphasizes strengthening the seed certification system, encouraging the use of organic manure/bio-fertilizers, extending soil testing facilities down to *upazila* and Union levels and minimizing the use of pesticides as part of IPM and ICM programs. As regards agricultural land use, the PoA recommends developing and enforcing regulations to maximize the use of fertile arable land for agricultural purposes, in line with the NAP (1999) and National Land Use Policy (2001). In line with the recommendations of the Actionable Policy Brief (2006), the PoA also emphasizes in the ST/MT, land zoning and Agro-Ecological Zones (AEZ)-based land development plans incorporating sustainable and profitable cropping patterns. The formulation of a comprehensive agricultural mechanization policy is also proposed as a key action to guide the agricultural mechanization process in Bangladesh, ensure the provision of adequate, needs-based support to farmers, in consideration of both competitiveness and employment issues. The PoA also recommends the examination of the impact of current input price policies and subsidies on agricultural profitability and competitiveness.

Area of Intervention #1.4: Agricultural Diversification

Consumption of balanced food remains a critical concern as the diet of millions of people still does not include nutritious food like fish, egg, meat, and fruits and vegetables. Bangladesh's past experience with diversification suggests that strategies for diversifying agricultural production need to be backed-up by clear understanding of the relative profitability of competing crops, physical and location-specific conditions for non-crop enterprises, supply chain of high value products and provisions for processing, storage and marketing activities, as well as sustainability issues. They also require a clear appraisal of existing and foreseeable domestic production constraints as well as of international trade opportunities.

Target(s): Increased and well-managed production of high value crops, fish and livestock products.

Action Agenda: In line with its integrated approach to agricultural diversification, the PoA first underscores the effective implementation of the PoA under AoI#1.1 (*Research and Extension*) for non-cereal crops and AoI#1.6 (*Physical Market Infrastructure Development*) and AoI#1.7 (*Agricultural marketing and Trade*). Acknowledging the multiple constraints and variables that need to be taken into account for a consistent and sustainable diversification strategy, the PoA underscores in the ST developing a clear “work plan” to increase production of high value crops by 25% and introducing modern varieties of maize, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits, whilst continuing with on-going programs for scaling-up fish, poultry and livestock production. In the ST/MT and in line with sustainability concerns, and AoI#1.3, the PoA recommends integrated crop management with further links to the livestock and fishery sub-sectors, i.e integrated fish-crop-livestock farming systems.

Area of Intervention #1.5: Agricultural Credit and Insurance

Current agricultural credit levels, in particular by formal banking institutions remain well below the needs of agricultural producers, especially small and marginal farmers. Furthermore, this gap cannot be expected to be filled by micro-finance institutions, which are mostly lending for non-agricultural purposes. High administrative and transaction costs, low recovery levels, poor perceived creditworthiness and collateral requirements contribute to this unsatisfactory performance in agricultural lending. The problem is further compounded by the absence of insurance mechanisms to cover borrowers in case of crop failure and instability in production

Target(s): Increased formal credit to agriculture, especially to small and marginal farmers; improved coverage of financial loss due to failure of crops, livestock and fish production.

Action Agenda: In line with many policy and planning documents (PRSP, APB (2006), the NAP PoA (2004), the PoA reemphasizes the need for increasing financial support for poor agricultural producers to enable them to go ahead with crop, livestock and fish production. In this regard, in the ST/MT, the PoA calls for measures geared towards reducing transactions costs, simplifying lending procedures, revising financial institutions’ creditworthiness criteria, strengthening of monitoring and supervision mechanisms alongside efforts to improve coordination of lending activities among financial institutions, including strengthening Government/NGO collaboration in addressing financial needs of marginal farmers and producers. The PoA provides for a significant expansion of rural bank branches in the MT/LT and the development of a small farmer development fund. As suggested by the NFP, the PoA also recommends exploring the feasibility of introducing insurance schemes to support producers when production fails, and/or when they cannot repay loans due to production failures.

Area of Intervention #1.6: Physical Market Infrastructure Development

Agricultural productivity increases critically depend on good infrastructure. Physical infrastructure development is also the precondition of an efficient food marketing system and the development of the agro-processing sector. Deficiencies in transportation/connections with markets, packaging, handling and storage facilities and appropriate market continue to prevent farmers from getting full returns on their produce.

Target(s): Improved private storage, market and transportation facilities, improved market connectivity at local, national and international levels.

Action Agenda: The PoA proposed actions in the ST/MT to achieve the above targets are centered on the provision for special credit facilities for developing appropriate storage/preservation, packaging and transportation of goods, the expansion and maintenance of road linkages between farms and markets, improvement of submersible roads, quays (*ghats*), growth centers, village markets (*hats*) with a particular focus on ecologically and economically vulnerable areas (e.g. *monga-prone areas*), and on developing a policy framework for private sector participation in infrastructure development. All those actions are supported by a number of on-going programs. In the MT/LT, the PoA places the emphasis on improving railway container and air cargo capacity.

Area of Intervention #1.7: Agricultural Marketing and Trade

Strengthening of food marketing - especially marketing information - and trade systems is identified as a priority to promote fair prices for agricultural commodities and to reduce post-harvest losses, as well as to support productivity enhancements and diversification efforts.

Target(s): Reduced marketing costs of agricultural products, strengthened market integration.

Action Agenda: In line with the APB (2006), the PoA emphasizes a set of institutional building interventions to spur agribusiness development, including strengthening capacities of DAM, BSTI, Hortex Foundation; promoting the expansion of farmers associations, developing efficient food marketing information systems through greater reliance on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), as well as reliable forecasting models. The PoA notably recommends establishing a agri-business fund. It also calls for effectively implementing the PoA under AoI# 1.6 on development of proper transport and storage systems, as well as promoting quality and maintenance of good hygiene practices.

Area of Intervention # 1.8: Policy and Regulatory Environment

Agricultural commodities pass through several intermediaries before they reach the consumer, with significant variations in marketing margins and producers' share. In many instances, the prices the consumers pay happen to be much higher than what they could be, whilst those received by poor farmers are very low. Strengthening of marketing systems shall help in ensuring fair prices. However, several other factors of poor market performance, such as unfair competition, the excessive number of intermediaries, transportation leakages, excessive tolls, need to be addressed through proper market policy and regulation.

Target(s): Updated legislation regulating food markets enacted and enforced

Action Agenda: In line with the APB (2006), the PoA underscores a series of ST/MT actions, including the amendment of the 2002 Market Management and Leasing Policy and Agricultural Market Produce Regulation Act of 1964, improving monitoring systems of private storage and food supply practices, rationalization of market charges, taxes, levies, and enactment of anti-trust and anti-monopoly acts.

Area of Intervention #1.9: Early Warning System Development

One of the most effective measures for disaster preparedness is a well-functioning early warning system that delivers accurate information dependably and on-time. Short and long-range forecast related to climate, food production and prevailing supply-demand and price situation are necessary for better food security management so that farmers can better plan their crop production management and that the government can adjust the emergency food requirement and take timely measures to address price instability.

Target(s): Well-functioning domestic Early Warning System established and integrated/ coordinated with the global Early Warning System.

Action Agenda: To achieve the above targets, the PoA underscores assessing the current functioning, including technical and organizational capacity of existing Early Warning and Food Security information systems and related institutions. In the ST to MT, it recommends evaluating methodologies for assessing the impacts of climate change on natural and human resources, the development/ upgrading of existing forecasting models to provide information on price, demand, supply and production, and the strengthening of warning information transmission processes to relevant stakeholders, through greater reliance on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). In the MT/LT, the PoA provides for capacity building programs on existing and new methodologies, and measures to strengthen the linkages between global and national early warning systems.

Area of Intervention #1.10: Producer Price Support

Producers need adequate incentives. They often sell immediately after harvest when prices are low. In order not to incur loss, the government seeks to provide a support price higher than the one that prevails in the market at which it procures. Notwithstanding procurement capacity constraints, whether procurement prices set by the Government provide effective incentives for producers remain an issue, highlighting the need to improve the overall procurement policy through an integrated strategy.

Target(s): Enhanced effectiveness of the public procurement system; producer price effectively supported during post harvest seasons.

Action Agenda: In the ST/MT, the PoA recommends improving the methodology for determining price and quantity of procurement, including estimation of production costs and production targets. In this regard, the PoA also underscores the effective implementation of the PoA for AoI 9 (*Early Warning System Development*). The PoA also argues for more transparent procurement rules and decisions, and recommends the conduct of impact studies to assess the effectiveness of procurement administration. At the operational level, the PoA underscores increasing purchases through open competitive tenders.

Area of Intervention #1.11: Public Stock Management / Price Stabilization

Public stock management is essential for the effectiveness of the Public Food Distribution System (PFDS) and Open Market Sales (OMS). The GoB has to maintain rolling stocks to cater to the needs of the PFDS as well as minimum buffer stocks for emergency distribution. This calls for a careful planning and management of the quantities to stock and release, and for storage facilities to be established as well as for improving/monitoring of existing storage quality.

Target(s): Improved public stock management, adequate public storage facilities and capacities and enhanced effectiveness of OMS.

Action Agenda: In the first place, the PoA underscores effectively implementing the PoA under AoI#1.9. In the ST/MT, the PoA calls for modernizing public storage, ensuring transparent use of public foodgrain stocks, and improving monitoring of private stocks and imports. The PoA also emphasizes greater reliance on computerized systems at both local and central levels, to more effectively monitor and control storage and stock positions. It also recommends exploring the possibility of introducing public-private partnerships for a cost-effective expansion of PFD-related storage capacities. In the MT/LT, the PoA places a greater emphasis on private storage and calls for leasing underutilized public storage facilities to private sector. The PoA also underscores improvements to OMS operations and other food distribution systems, such as Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) and food/cash for work/education.

NFP Objective 2: Increased purchasing power and access to food of the people

Area of Intervention #2.1: Agricultural Disaster Management

The GoB has been placing increased emphasis on of the reduction of human, economic and environmental costs of disasters, through enhancing the national capacity for disaster mitigation. Mitigation practices pursued by the GoB focus on (1) preparedness and possibilities for action to reduce risks and losses, and (2) better coordination mechanisms between all actors involved (GoB, NGO and community people at the grass-roots level) during all phases of disaster. The PoA recommends strengthening of these efforts with particular focus on agriculture-related risks and disasters.

Target(s): Enhanced disaster preparedness and post-disaster rehabilitation in agricultural systems.

Action Agenda: In the ST/MT, the PoA calls for strengthening the effectiveness of existing post-disaster rehabilitation programs in agriculture. It also recommends the effective implementation of disaster-management related actions proposed under the PoA- Objective 1, including continued research on weather and disease-resistant varieties and associated with this, the expansion of existing integrated disease and pest management programs (see AoI#1.1, *Agricultural research and extension*), timely irrigation supplementation measures in times of drought and, in the MT/LT, effective mainstreaming of irrigation programs in major flood control projects (as per AoI#1.2 *Use and management of water resources*), and the establishment of an efficient Early Warning System (AoI#1.9, *Early Warning System Development*). The PoA also emphasizes, in the MT/LT, the exploration of the feasibility of introducing insurance systems for small farmers and other agricultural producers. The overarching action line proposed in the PoA is the effective implementation of the comprehensive set of interventions (institutional and human capacity-building, awareness raising, warning systems and community involvement) planned in the recently developed National Plan for Disaster Management (2007-2015), with a special focus on agricultural disaster risk reduction and preparedness.

Area of Intervention #2.2: Emergency Distribution from Public Stock

Emergency distribution augments food availability in the disaster-affected areas. The critical issue here is how quickly the required quantity of food reaches the disaster-affected people. This in turn is contingent upon two factors: availability of requisite food stocks in the local supply depots and adequate transport infrastructure through which food can be channeled to the intended beneficiaries. A successful implementation of emergency distribution programmes calls for effective interagency/ inter-ministerial cooperation and coordination.

Target(s): Improved coverage and effectiveness of emergency distribution programmes.

Action Agenda: Acknowledging that an important prerequisite for successful emergency food distribution is to have adequate public stock of foodgrain, preferably in supply depots closer to the places of occurrence of the disasters, the PoA prioritizes the effective implementation of ST/MT interventions geared towards improving public stock management and early warning systems, as called for under the PoA-Objective 1, AoI#1.9 (*Early Warning System Development*) and AoI#1.11 (*Public Stock Management/Price Stabilization*). With regard to emergency distribution coverage and effectiveness, the PoA also recommends the timely implementation of interventions (selection of target beneficiaries, reaching to the beneficiaries, cost-effectiveness) under AoI#2.3 (*Effectiveness of targeted programs and safety nets*) with specific reference to relief programs.

Area of Intervention #2.3: Enabling Environment for Private Food Trade and Stock

Target(s): *see PoA under AoI#1.6, 1.7, 1.8*

Action Agenda: The PoA acknowledges the importance of reaping the benefits of a greater involvement of private agents in food trade and stocks to improve access to food in both emergency and normal times. In this regard, the PoA advocates the effective implementation of the set of actions proposed under AoI#1.6 (*Physical Market Infrastructure Development*), AoI 7 (*Agricultural Marketing and Trade*) and AoI 8 (*Policy/regulatory environment*) to create an enabling environment for private food trade and stock

Area of Intervention #2.4: Effectiveness of Targeted Food Security Programs and Other Safety Nets

Bangladesh has a wide range of food-based and/or cash-based targeted programs geared towards promoting food security among the most vulnerable segments of the population. Food based and cash based targeted programs are critical, in that they provide leverage to improving policy coherence, scaling up and promoting best practices, whilst highlighting the potential of new/appropriate technologies such as nutritionally fortified or blended foods. However, many extreme poor and vulnerable segments of the population are not adequately covered whilst ecologically vulnerable and economically weak areas such as monga-prone areas in north-western Bangladesh, chars and haors, need to be better targeted. The effectiveness of those programs also needs to be improved. There is evidence of relatively high leakage from food based programs. Furthermore, there are too many layers of decision-making in the selection of beneficiaries and too many Government departments involved in running the programs, resulting in a large administrative costs which needs to be streamlined. More generally, those programs fail to be integrated into a comprehensive social security policy framework.

Target(s): *Improved coverage of vulnerable and disadvantaged people and areas (esp. monga-prone areas); improved targeting; improved cost- effectiveness; reduced leakage; enhanced adequacy to vulnerable people's nutritional needs.*

Action Agenda: Most actions called for under this area of intervention are primarily anchored on the PRSP agenda for improving the effectiveness of safety nets (Policy Matrix 6). Thus in the ST/MT, the PoA calls for a thorough assessment of existing targeted programs, including emergency relief, reviewing the adequacy of transfer amounts, targeting (including geographical targeting) criteria and sources of leakage. This should go along with a set of governance-focused interventions for strengthening accountability mechanisms, the capacity of implementing institutions at national and local levels and monitoring and evaluation systems, as well as the participation of local communities in program design, implementation and monitoring, on a continuous basis. Those ST/MT actions are meant to back-up actions for expanding coverage of programs/review design of programs to the ultra-poor and other vulnerable groups (destitute women, disabled people, slum dwellers, landless, the elderly), as well as to people living in vulnerable areas, e.g. *monga*-prone areas, *haors* and *chars*, with here, a particular focus on *employment generation-oriented programs* (e.g. *Cash For Work (CFW)/Food For Work (FFW)*). They shall also feed into the design of a clear institutional and strategy framework for program delivery and monitoring. In the MT/LT, the PoA also underscores strengthening the nutritional contents of food-based programs. Finally, in line with the PRSP, the PoA stresses the further expansion of other general safety nets (old age and widow allowance and pensions), using *union parishads* to select beneficiaries and distribute benefits.

Area of Intervention # 2.5: Income Generation for Women and the Disabled

Women, represent both a significant share of the food insecure population whilst being at the same time primary agents of household food security. Women are predominantly employed in family-based economic activities. Wage-earning women from landless households contribute a significant share (around 20%) of household's total annual income, whilst they also prove to invest larger amounts of money in nutrition and health. In line with the PRSP (Policy Matrix 15), the PoA calls for a multi-sectoral set of actions focused on women's skill development, access to productive assets and participation. At the same time, it places a stronger emphasis on addressing the specific needs of the disabled, calling for renewed and scaled-up efforts and partnerships to improve access of disabled people³⁰ to income generating opportunities. Whilst poor accessibility of the disabled stems from many factors, the lack of awareness about disability and the needs of disabled people act as a major barrier.

Target(s): *Enhanced participation of women and disabled people in rural agricultural and other rural activities*

Action Agenda: As regards women-focused interventions, in the ST/MT, the PoA emphasizes expanding women's access to agricultural extension services and

³⁰ According to the World Health Organization (WHO) disabled people account for ten percent of our total population with most of those being physically disabled.

inputs and strengthening of training activities on existing/traditional products and technologies, as part of MoA on-going initiatives in this area. The PoA also recommends effective targeting of poor women in the various interventions contemplated under the Fishery and Livestock roadmaps for implementing the PRSP. In the MT/LT, the PoA calls for specific training projects and programs to be developed in order to facilitate the participation of women in new/emerging agricultural and agro-based enterprises, alongside efforts to strengthen participation of women in project and program design. The PoA also emphasizes backing up poor women Income Generating Activities (IGAs)/micro-entrepreneurship development by a set supportive measures, including, in the ST/MT, expanding coverage and effectiveness of micro-credit/training programs, graduation from VGD programs, distribution of *khas* land, as well as expansion of community-based child care and other support services. In the MT/LT, the PoA especially calls for a greater integration of both financial and non-financial business service provision along with institutional reforms to expand women's access to the commercial banking sector. The PoA acknowledges that increasing the participation of disabled people in mainstream activities poses extra-challenges and calls for strengthening support to on-going rehabilitation initiatives and programs of the MoSW and NGOs/Voluntary organizations, alongside efforts to strengthen Government/NGOs/Voluntary cooperation, and raise awareness about their specific needs.

Area of Intervention #2.6: Promotion of Agro-based/Agro-processing and Micro/Small Rural Enterprises

Vegetables, spices and tropical fruits currently grown in the country could more extensively supply raw materials to local agro-processing industries for both domestic and export markets. However, the development of the sector is hampered by the lack of modern agricultural practices and processing facilities, inadequate marketing techniques and networks, as well as limited finance and skills. Future development and contribution of the MSME sector at large is conditional upon a number of factors, including the selection of appropriate technologies, compliance with quality standards, training and skill development, access to finance, and development of sub-contracting relationships. The PoA emphasizes an integrated approach to address those constraints.

Target (s): Increased growth of agro-based/agro-processing industries and Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises (MSMEs).

Action Agenda: In line with the agricultural-led growth approach to food security adopted by the NFP, the PoA emphasizes an integrated approach geared towards removing the major constraints on agro-based and rural MSME sector development. In this regard, it first emphasizes the effective implementation of the ST/MT agriculture-focused interventions proposed under AoI# 1.1, 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7 (see above), to improve agricultural producers' access to adequate technologies (strengthening of extension/research linkages), marketing facilities, market research and information, business development services, and finance, especially formal bank finance. The PoA recommends a similar set of supportive

interventions for existing agro-processing enterprises, especially MSMEs, as part of the support package envisaged under the national Industrial and SME policies. In line with the APB (2006) and the SME policy (2005), the PoA underscores a “supply chain approach” (as opposed to the “supply-approach”) in the MT/LT and calls for developing programs to improve value chain management among input providers, traders, processors and service providers, backed-up by commensurate capacity-building efforts, within the vocational training system, as well as within existing enterprises. On the institutional side, it calls for building and strengthening rural economic organizations such as agri-business associations and cooperatives to pursue general market opportunities. Whilst the strategy is expected to benefit most advantaged regions in the ST/MT, the PoA underscores expanding support to more backward areas. Finally, the PoA calls for exploring the development of affordable insurance schemes for micro-entrepreneurs.

Area of Intervention #2.7: Market-driven Skill Development

There is a persisting shortage of market-oriented training programs highlighting the need for institutional reforms, broad-based capacity-building, improved infrastructure and financing mechanisms. The formal Vocational Education and Training (VET) system (consisting of the vocational training institutes of the Ministry of Education (MoE), and technical training centers of the Ministry of Labor and Employment) is not currently able to cater to market requirements and only covers a small proportion of the training needs. The lack of decentralized decision-making is also an issue. Informal vocational training initiatives, both technical and entrepreneurial, are more comprehensive and more needs-based in the approach but need to be anchored on a consistent VET strategy.

Target (s): Quality of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) increased to meet skill requirements of domestic and international markets

Action Agenda: The PoA acknowledges the need to back-up overall efforts towards enhancing people’s access to food by a consistent, demand driven skill development strategy. In line with the PRSP (Policy Matrix 14), the PoA emphasizes improving access, relevance, quality, coordination, efficiency, and sustainability of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in response to labor market needs, with a focus on curricula adjustment in the ST/MT and decentralization of vocational training provision in the MT/LT.

NFP Objective 3: Adequate nutrition for all individuals, especially women and children

Area of Intervention #3.1: Long-term Planning for Balanced Nutrition

The current national food basket is grossly imbalanced and inadequate resulting in widespread malnutrition in the country. Furthermore, the food chain of the country has changed enormously during the last decades with the emergence of new varieties of foods

that require analysis of their nutrient composition. This calls for a comprehensive, result-oriented long term planning towards balanced nutrition

Target(s): Long term targets for physical growth established; standard food and nutrient intake established for different population groups; integrated plan for attaining standard food intakes targets established.

Action Agenda: The PoA proposes, as a ST/MT action, to first develop a methodology for establishing and defining long-term targets for physical and intellectual growth. Associated with this are development of a proper methodology for determining the Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) of nutrients, particularly the calorie requirement, and conduct research to determine the RDA according to the needs of different population groups of different body size, physiological states and occupations for physical, mental and intellectual growth and development. For validation of the RDA so determined, the PoA recommends for a comparative analysis with the RDA of other countries, particularly with the neighboring ones that have comparable population and demographic characteristics.

To determine standard food intake and to prepare food-based dietary guidelines, particularly *setting a desirable dietary pattern* and diet charts at low cost for providing adequate and balanced nutrition according to the RDA, is a major action agenda in the NFP. Fundamental to this is the need for developing a dynamic tool and mechanism to ascertain the per capita consumption of cereals and other foods for food planning as well as the nutrient composition of the foods. The development/updating of a comprehensive national food composition database also represents an overarching action in this regard.

The existing monitoring programs on the impacts of nutrition interventions, with particular emphasis on the growth of children, are to be continued as a part of a long-term action plan. Also, in ST/MT, monitoring of the changes in food supply in relation to long-term changes in food demand should be carried out and in this regard, periodic updating of dependable national food balance sheets is necessary. Critical to all the above actions is identifying, in ST/MT, the priority interventions, in set and sequence, in line with the food security-related sectoral and national action plan targets, keeping in mind the linkages with production, availability, accessibility and consumption/utilization issues. Strong political will and commitment is a prerequisite for achievement of the above targets to align physical growth of the Bangladeshi population with international standards over the next generations.

Area of Intervention # 3.2: Balanced and Nutritious Food at Minimal Costs for Vulnerable Groups

This area of intervention is regarded as a high priority, given the fact that 40% of the population (nearly 60 million) lives below poverty line and is undernourished. Improving poor and vulnerable people's access to nutritious food requires a comprehensive strategy,

involving both long term (diversification) and short term (targeted programs) efforts. Attention also needs to be given to people living in geographically vulnerable areas, particularly those in munga-prone areas. The PoA under this area of intervention thus cuts across with several other areas of intervention under Objectives 1 and 2.

Target(s): Increased availability through local production of low-cost items; poor, distressed and vulnerable women and children effectively covered by food-based nutrition programs, including Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP).

Action Agenda: The PoA first recommends the effective implementation of actions under AoI # 1.4 (*Agricultural diversification, especially the implementation of a work plan to increase the production of high value non-cereal foods to provide the nation with a more balanced food basket*) and also under AoI # 2.2 (*Emergency food distribution from public stocks*) and AoI # 2.4 (*Effectiveness of targeted programs and other safety nets*).

In addition to these, in the ST and the MT/LT, the PoA stresses on increasing vegetable and fruit production and productivity at national and household levels through integrated horticulture development, raising backyard poultry and community fish ponds, expanding the coverage of effective micro credit programs/training for poor women, mainstreaming nutrition education in sector programs for improved awareness among the poor and vulnerable groups, and developing special nutrition programs in urban slums, rural ultra poor households and *munga-prone areas*, targeted to under-5 children.

Area of Intervention #3.3: Nutrition Education for Dietary Diversification

The main essence of this area of intervention is to educate people, particularly rural poor women, on the importance of consuming a variety of foods and food combinations in order to achieve an appropriate balance of both macro and micronutrients in their diet. Promoting appropriate intra-household food distribution to meet the nutritional needs of all members, in particular women and female children is an important action. Anti-female biases in access to food and health care resources result in malnutrition and reduces women's access to assets that compromises women's empowerment (MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women). Nutrition training of upazila and community level functionaries, particularly women as well as regular orientation at district levels for agriculture and health sectors is to be strengthened. Comprehensive nutrition education efforts and other demand side interventions will need to be intensified in order to improve nutrition outcomes. Alongside, these efforts have to be linked to supply side interventions such as improved access to and coverage of agricultural extension and health services, micronutrient supplementation and fortification, supplementary feeding, food-to-food enrichment, increased access to nutritious foods such as cheaper local fruits, vegetables, small livestock and fish for combating problems of nutrition, as addressed elsewhere in the PoA.

Target(s): Increased percentage of women educated in nutrition and primary health care activities through formal and non-formal education; increased home gardening and poultry raising activities by poor households.

Action Agenda: In line with the National Nutrition Program/National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN), the PoA calls for actions in the ST to MT to strengthen the existing formal and non-formal education as well as the behavior change communication (BCC) programs on balanced food and healthy child growth and hygienic and nutritionally sound cooking practices, through formal and non-formal curricula and educational channels and also through mass media. Updated nutrition education modules for inclusion into various education programs are required. Scaling up integrated home gardening through women-centered community actions in at least two thirds of households up to union level through training and better access to seeds, tools and materials, is also recommended. The PoA also emphasizes the promotion of food based dietary guidelines as a health, nutrition and agriculture policy tool. The NPP is currently in place in 105 *upazilas*, an important component of which is the Area Based Community Nutrition (ABCN) program. Since the program has demonstrated some positive changes in nutrition and health statistics in the project areas, the PoA recommends for an expansion in the coverage of this component, especially in the rural areas of the country. It also calls for devising methodologies for forging stakeholder consensus around results from operation research and monitoring and evaluation as well as capacity strengthening to fine tune strategies based on these inputs.

Area of Intervention # 3.4: Supplementation and Fortification for Balanced Nutrition

This area of intervention concerns with mitigation of gaps in diets deficient in micronutrients through supplementation and fortification. The ultimate outcome is balanced nutrition for proper growth and development, especially poor women and children.

Target(s): Increased coverage of vitamin A; increased coverage and compliance of iron-folate supplementation and; increased coverage of households with adequately iodized salt

Action Agenda: In line with the PRSP and the Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HNPS), the PoA calls for continued preventive and curative vitamin A+ and iron-folate tablet distribution programs and, in the ST, emphasizes the increases in the coverage of these programs. Special attention is recommended for Vitamin A Capsule (VAC) supplementation to mothers within six weeks of delivery. Regular Vitamin A Deficiency (VAD) surveys at the national level are also warranted.

As regards fortification, the PoA, in the ST, recommends activation of the newly instituted National Fortification Alliance (NFA), and also the National Salt

Committee. The other ST actions include production of smaller packets of half a kilogram, or even less, of iodized salt, regular refresher training for salt factory owners, workers and supervisors and undertaking special crash programs for iodized salt distribution in the northern part of the country, especially the pocket areas where iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) is persistently high. The key ST/MT actions include activation of the “Sprinkles” (more bio-available form of microencapsulated iron and other micronutrients) production for mass scale consumption by under two years of age children and pregnant women for improvement of anaemia, strengthening the GoB/NGOs for VAD elimination programs, improving the distribution and marketing channels for iodized salt in remote areas, research on the higher prevalence of anaemia in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), and promotion of nutrient-dense complementary feeding incorporating adequate animal sources. As MT/LT actions, the PoA recommends the undertaking of a national level integrated anti-anaemia programs, setting up production units for fortification of *atta* (whole wheat flour) and other food products in all divisional headquarters and strengthening the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (CIDD) program through Universal Salt Iodization (USI). Food-to-food enrichment is also warranted as part of LT actions.

Area of Intervention # 3.5: Safe Drinking Water and Improved Sanitation

Safe drinking water and sanitation constitutes an important prerequisite for ensuring utilization of food for nutrition. These issues are of particular relevance in the context of the current water and sanitation situation prevailing in the country. In the area of water and sanitation, important issues include reducing water borne morbidity and mortality, reducing the number of people subjected to and at risk of arsenic contamination and ensuring access to community latrines in villages, bazaars, mosques and schools and public places, with particular attention to women’s needs. While progress has been made in this direction, much needs to be still done. In particular, strategic planning to introduce water supply and sanitation projects for all urban areas and installing piped water supply for the urban poor would constitute an important area of intervention. Increasing the number of tube wells in rural areas and installing water supply options to minimize water problems related to arsenic contamination, excessive iron and salinity, introducing water quality monitoring and surveillance program, mass hygiene awareness programs and research and development on appropriate and affordable technologies are some specific issues related to intervention for safe drinking water and improved sanitation.

Target(s): *Safe water and sanitation facilities available and accessible for all by 2010.*

Action Agenda: In line with the PRSP, raising public awareness regarding safe drinking water (including arsenic contamination) and safe sanitation (including personal hygiene) is an imperative ST action recommended in the PoA. Under ST/MT, the installation of tube wells (with caution for arsenic contamination), one for every ten households, and construction of sanitary latrines for every household and for every school are the key actions. Strengthening the capacity of

the local authoritative bodies through training of the concerned officials, increased block grants for the Local Government Institutes (LGIs), monitoring of the LGIs' activities and strengthening/developing urban solid waste management through improved water sanitation services are other ST/MT actions.

Area of Intervention # 3.6: Safe, Quality Food Supply

Food safety and food quality together constitutes another important prerequisite for ensuring utilization of food for nutrition. Key issues related to food safety include access to safe and quality food for the people, reduction of food borne illnesses and behavioral change of people towards consumption and demand of safe and hygienic food. As part of a strategic development framework at the national level, policy elements related to food safety and quality include the need for a food control system to ensure nutritious, safe and wholesome food for consumers and in promoting national economics for the well being of the population. The accompanying strategy for food safety and quality focuses on elements related to use of pesticides and their residues in the crops, and proper rotation of emergency stocks so they remain safe and of acceptable quality.

Target(s): Enhanced access to safe and quality food, for domestic consumption and also for international trade.

Action Agenda: The establishment of the proposed National Food Safety Council, enactment of the Consumers' Protection Act and improvement of the concerned IEC/BCC programs on food safety and safe food practices are recommended in the PoA as ST actions. In the ST/MT, institutionalization of safe and hygienic street food vending systems is an important action, given its contribution to food security and nutrition of millions of low-income group people in both urban and peri-urban areas. In the context of the avian influenza epidemic, it is also recommended to promote safe poultry handling and cooking practices, through awareness raising.

Apart from these, a number of MT/LT actions are recommended in the PoA. These include: strengthening food testing laboratories, including DG Food laboratory according to international standards with modern equipment and skilled manpower; developing more sophisticated food testing techniques and national food standards in accordance with the Codex Alimentarius), so that the coverage of food items under the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) standards can be increased; enforcement of the HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) operations to control all types of food contamination at all stages, ranging from farm to table, with particular emphasis on the control of the current 'free-for-all' style of food adulteration (with all kinds of toxic additives). As MT/LT, the PoA recommends preparation of national guidelines for implementing the provisions of FAO's code of conduct for responsible fisheries.

Area of Intervention # 3.7: Women and Children's Health

This is a broad area of intervention, encompassing improvement of the health status of children and adults, with special reference to adolescent girls and women of reproductive age. Women have higher energy, protein and micronutrient requirements when they are pregnant and lactating/nursing. Those who enter pregnancy malnourished or who do not gain sufficient weight during pregnancy are more likely to deliver low birth weight babies. Babies who are born malnourished face a heightened risk of dying within the first week of life. The consequences of early malnutrition are an increased risk of illness and damage to physical and mental capabilities that may persist into adulthood. Girls who are malnourished during childhood are more likely to be malnourished adolescents, to enter their first pregnancy malnourished, and to give birth to underweight babies, thus perpetuating the cycle of malnutrition across generations.

Target(s): Increased primary health care (PHC) and antenatal care (ANC) coverage; increased skilled attendance at birth; improved access to health services; healthy lifestyles and behavior.

Action Agenda: The PoA recommends continued efforts on the Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI) and control of Acute upper-Respiratory tract Infection (ARI) program activities. Strengthening other related programs like the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI), Essential Services Delivery (ESD) and Primary Health Care (PHC) is also necessary as ST/MT actions. Other ST/MT actions are: Promotion of Behavior Change Communication (BCC) towards healthy lifestyles, and prevention, early detection and treatment of major non-communicable diseases like overweight and obesity, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, and some cancers (cervical, oral, breast, lungs). The National HIV/AIDS Control Program also deserves strengthening in view of the threat of AIDS influx from the neighboring countries. Indeed, malnutrition increases the risk of HIV/AIDS infections as well as that of malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases (in line with MDG 6: *Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases*). MT/LT actions suggested are development of GO/NGO partnership in the field of health and nutrition and the development of a pro-poor national drug policy.

Area of Intervention # 3.8: Promotion and Protection of Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding

This is a special area of intervention that is concerned with proper breastfeeding and safe complementary feeding practices. Promotion and protection of breastfeeding and complementary feeding is globally recognized as the key to a good start in life for a child, usually ensuring safety from malnutrition during the entire preschool age. Breastfeeding cuts across the issues of food security in infancy, food safety, child caring and child protection against infections, morbidity and mortality, which is in line with MDG 4.

Target(s): Strengthened exclusive breastfeeding practices; expanded practice of breastfeeding; ensured safe and nutritious complementary feeding; strengthened baby-friendly hospital initiative; increased maternity leave, particularly post-

partum; Breast Milk Substitutes (BMS) Codes respected by the breast milk substitute marketers.

Action Agenda: The PoA recognizes promotion of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, with initiation of breastfeeding within one hour after birth and initiation of appropriate complementary feeding at six months of age while continuing breastfeeding up to two years of age, as the first and foremost action in this area, in line with United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN) Working Group recommendations (2007). Activities concerning international regulations of breast milk substitutes (BMS Codes) and development of comprehensive education materials on breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices are also strongly recommended as ST actions. The PoA proposes that safe and nutritious complementary feeding be institutionalized at household and community levels and maternity leave be extended to at least five months post-partum. Development of recipes for safe and nutritious complementary food from local ingredients, establishment of day-care centers/crèches for working mothers at their work places, extension of baby-friendly initiatives in hospitals and clinics and strengthening the Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation (BBF) are some ST/MT actions recommended.

1.4. Implementation mechanisms

1.4.1. Main Actors

Government: In implementing the PoA towards achieving Objective 1 of the NFP, primary responsibility on the government side rests with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Fishery and Livestock (MoFL), the Ministry of Land (MoL) and Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), and their related divisions, departments and institutes. In the realm of enhancing access to food (NFP Objective 2), responsibilities of various ministries and agencies are clearly more widespread across the various areas of intervention foreseen in the PoA. Thus, the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management will have a clear responsibility in transitory shock management and administration of targeted programs and safety nets whilst the Economic Relation Division of the Ministry of Finance will also play a key supportive role in ensuring an effective coordination of external food and rehabilitation assistance in emergency situations. Conversely, the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRDC), the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), the Ministry of Industry (MoI), the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MoLE), the Ministry of Education (MoE) are to be key players in tackling economic access challenges.

Actions related to promotion of nutrition for all individuals (NFP Objective 3) entail two types of strategies – food-based and non-food-based. The primary

responsibility for food- based actions lies with the Ministries of Agriculture (MoA), Livestock and Fisheries (MoFLS), Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) and Environment and Forest (MoEF), and their related divisions, departments and institutes. The BSCIC and the BSTI under the Ministry of Industry (MoI) and the IFST and the AEC under the Ministry of Science and Information and Communication Technology (MoSICT) will play key roles in actions related to food fortification and setting food standards. The Ministries of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Local Government, Rural development & Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C) will clearly be the key actors in non-food-based actions, including the challenges of safe water and sanitation, and improved women and children's health.

Food safety and food quality related actions which are within the responsibilities of these two ministries, also fall within the broader purview of other sectors/ministries (MoA, MoFLS). The MoHFW, along with the Ministries of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), Education (MoE), Information (MoI) and Social Welfare (MoSW) will also take up the responsibilities of actions in the area of promotion and protection of breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

However, most of interventions contemplated in the PoA will require appropriate/improved coordination among as well as between different ministries and agencies (see below)

NGO community: The NGO sector has been a major force in carrying sector based programmes to the grassroots and rural communities for over 3 decades. A large number of NGOs are playing an active role in virtually all areas of intervention covered by the PoA, including women development/empowerment and income generating activities for the poor and the vulnerable, micro-credit, agriculture, livestock, poultry and fisheries development, transitory shock management, environment, water supply and sanitation, health and family planning, technology and entrepreneurship development. As pointed out by the National Agricultural Policy Plan of Action (2004), the NGO community shall play an instrumental role in achieving NFP Objective 1 through (a) helping to provide 'voice' for the un-empowered, (b) promoting rights and interests of the disadvantaged, viz., women, small and marginal farmers and agricultural laborers, (c) providing credit and skills training for small and marginal farmers and landless laborers, (d) assisting farmers establish cooperatives and other farmer organizations, (d) facilitating contacts and contracts between farm and agribusiness organizations. In addition, NGOs are also very active in implementing health and nutrition related activities and programmes in close collaboration with the MoHFW (HNPS), DAE (MoA) and other sectors in areas of school gardening, agriculture based nutrition and other related areas as detailed in the actions under objective 3 of the PoA.

Private sector: Alongside the government, the private enterprises play a vital role in creating income earning opportunities in agriculture and non-agriculture

sector in rural as well as urban areas. Given the pressures on population and land and the declining trends in food aid, the role of private investment in non-farm rural activities but also in food imports is meant to become increasingly critical.

As regards NFP Objective 1, the private sector is meant to play an instrumental role in spurring agricultural commercialization and agri-business development, through maintaining a stable supply of inputs, equipment and services to farmers, marketing agricultural produces in domestic and international markets, transferring technology, maintaining quality standard, improving value chain management, promoting new farming organizational models (e.g. contract farming), as well as conducting market research.

Whilst the government is to promote the creation of an enabling environment and facilitate access of most vulnerable segments of the population, especially women, the private sector will be the core engine of employment creation and income generation in rural farm and non-farm sectors.

Recently, the private sector is seen to be proactive through large scale investments in nutri-business in the form of fortification of cooking oil with vitamins (A and D) in line with the directives of the National Fortification Alliance (NFA) under the Ministry of Industry. While this is a step forward towards mitigating nutritional problems in the country, the fortification standards need to be monitored closely. The food industry sector in Bangladesh is rapidly growing with the advent and application of modern technologies thereby playing a potentially important role in food security related ventures.

Communities: Whilst communities are targeted by several interventions under the PoA, the PoA also emphasizes community involvement and empowerment, notably through community/ village-based organizations³¹, as key to improving household food security (e.g. community-based disaster preparedness, community-based extension services and area-based community nutrition activities under the National Nutrition Programme – NNP).

Academia and Research Institutions: Many actions proposed in the PoA assume the active participation of academia and research institutions. The latter are to play a key role in implementing the PoA in the areas of Agricultural research and extension, Early Warning System development, agricultural credit and insurance, but also in many other areas under Objective 2 and 3, including, disaster management, (assessing) the effectiveness of safety net programs. Under Objective 3 of the NFP, scientific research is required for the establishment of standard nutrient and food intake for all population groups of Bangladesh.

Development Partners: Bilateral and international donors and other development partners support a wide range of upstream and downstream food security initiatives and programs, in virtually all areas of interventions covered by this PoA, mainly in partnership with a range of government and/or NGOs.

³¹ Such as those established under FAO's Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS).

I.4.2. Coordination

Within government coordination: As regards the implementation of the NFP PoA towards Objective 1, inter-agency coordination will be especially critical at three levels: strengthening coordination within the crop sector, coordinating with macro policy-making, and coordinating with other sectoral, especially non-crop and cross cutting, policies and programs (fishery and livestock, land, water resources management, environmental policies) – see National Agricultural Policy PoA (2004). On-going efforts to promote the integration and strategic planning within the agricultural sector need to be sustained, including integrating extension policies and services of the different departments (livestock, fisheries, and forestry) via the coordination committees that have been established from national to district level and the fora created to discuss sector-wide approaches.

Similarly, in line with NFP Objective 2, long term support to agri-business and agro-processing development, and related efforts to improve value-chain management in the medium term long term, will require careful coordination of activities and decision-making processes between the MoA, the MoFL, the MoI (regarding in particular promotional policies), the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Education (regarding adjustments in vocational training education curricula).

In Bangladesh, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been mandated to act as the lead ministry in overseeing most of the nutrition-focused interventions. But since nutrition is a multidisciplinary issue, a high degree of coordination is required between this Ministry and all other related ministries (15 ministries were identified in the National Plan of Action for Nutrition, 1997) in order to achieve successful implementation of the PoA Objective 3 of the NFP. To attain this, the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council was formed in 1974, with the Prime Minister as its Chairperson. In essence, it is the highest body to ensure inter-sectoral coordination among all concerned sectors through its linkages with the Ministry of Planning and partnerships with the non-governmental actors towards mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture, health, education, rural development and social protection programs. However, the Council is not active enough to translate its mandate into action. The Secretariat of the Council needs to be strengthened. In particular, there is a lack of coordination between the two pillars of nutrition, namely the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (supplementation, fortification and disease control-based actions) and the Ministry of Agriculture (food-based actions).

The MoFDM has been mandated to play a major role in coordinating dialogue and NFP PoA implementation and monitoring efforts among various line ministries and partners in addition to its main responsibility with food planning,

distribution and disaster management. As stated in the NFP preamble, the *“MoFDM will carry out its own programs; in addition, it will ensure extending all out support to all concerned ministries and agencies in implementing their own food-security related strategies and programs. In this way, attaining food security will be possible through a coordinated implementation of the programs of all concerned ministries and agencies, as set in the national plan of action for food security framed in association with all concerned ministries in the light of the approved food policy.”*

The Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC), the Food Policy Working Group (FPWG), the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit and the Thematic Research Teams (TRTs) form the core institutional framework for coordinating implementation and monitoring of the NFP and its PoA (see Section V).

As noted earlier, the TRTs, under the leadership of MoFDM/FPMU and overall guidance of the FPWG, played an instrumental role in coordinating the development of the NFP PoA and related consultative processes. Building upon this experience, alongside continued capacity strengthening, the TRTs shall serve as effective platforms for activating and institutionalizing inter-ministerial and inter-agency dialogue and follow-up on the implementation of the action agendas laid down in the PoA, including periodic information-sharing/discussions on sectoral planning and budgetary processes in light of PoA priorities, joint monitoring of progress towards the achievement of PoA stated outcomes and outputs/results, as well as support to related analytical and consultative activities.

In line with the process initiated under FAO NFPCSP assistance, FPMU/TRTs' on-going support to the PoA implementation and monitoring activities shall follow clear and results-oriented annual work plans, to be established in a participatory way by the FPMU/TRT members under the guidance and supervision of the FPWG.

NGO/NGO - Government coordination: Government-NGO collaboration is foreseen as key to the effective implementation of the PoA, which calls for strengthening coordination and partnerships in many areas of intervention. The PoA strongly emphasizes the need for new approaches and development initiatives for food security and the ability of the NGOs to provide alternative models for a gradual change of emphasis from community welfare-related activities to integrated development of the poor. The NGOs are currently collaborating with the Government under various arrangements, mostly sub-contracting arrangements under which government agencies enter into contract with NGOs.

Coordination of NGO activities are performed mostly by two organizations: the NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB) under the Prime Minister's Office and the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) representing the

interests of the NGOs. A GO-NGO Consultative Council (GNCC) has been established, with representatives from the government, NGOs and the civil society, to serve as a forum for the Government and NGOs to coordinate activities and exchange views on a regular basis on all issues affecting GO-NGO collaboration. The GNCC works as an advisory council toward resolving issues arising out of GO-NGO interaction and collaboration.

Development Partners/Government. In line with the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* (2005), the development partners' community in Bangladesh committed to a number of actions to improve efficiency and better coordination, reduce administrative burdens, and minimize risks. Alignment of country programming with the PRSP priorities and the MDGs is a major step towards improved coordination. Given the degree of alignment between this PoA, the PRSP and the MDGs, GoB/Development Partners coordination around the NFP PoA implementation shall make an active use of existing PRSP/MDGs related Government/Development Partners dialogue platforms. This shall contribute to enhance the visibility of food security related priorities and policy efforts within those broader policy frameworks, whilst also providing significant leverage to overall coordination and monitoring efforts. Major platforms, include:

- *The Joint Committee for Monitoring and Implementation*, led by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance, which coordinates external assistance on all matters related to the PRSP.

- *The PRS Implementation Forum*: the latter was established in the wake of PRSP adoption and is the successor to the Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF). Both the BDF and its successor comprise members from the GoB, as well as international and local representatives of donor agencies. The purpose of the Implementation Forum is to formulate the implementation process and monitoring of progress of the PRSP vis-à-vis donor coordination.

- *The Local Consultative Group (LCG)*: The LCG provides an important forum for local aid coordination and policy dialogue between the government and development partners. Its activities also provide important inputs for the dialogue with the GoB, which are brought to the PRSP Implementation Forum.

The LCG comprises of 21 sub-groups, focusing on the more technical and detailed aspects of the sectoral, thematic, or region-specific issues which are of clear relevance to many food security focused interventions, in particular, the *LCG Sub-Group on Agriculture and Rural Development*, which consolidates the 3 previously existing subgroups on (1) Agriculture; (2) Fisheries; and (3) Nutrition and Food Security.

The sub-group has been focusing on agricultural policies and strategies as central to accelerating pro-poor growth with special emphasis placed on crop diversification, involvement of the private sector, and promoting linkages with

other policies such as water, livestock, fisheries and rural development, as well as sustainable management of resources and access by the poor; the *Disaster & Emergency Response (DER) sub-group* which focuses on increasing the effectiveness of its members' disaster preparedness and response efforts to reduce the vulnerability of the poorest and most affected members of society", the *LCG Sub-Group on Health, Population and Nutrition (the HNP Consortium)* which aims at coordinating support to the Bangladesh health sector in improving health outcomes; the *LCG Sub-Group on Rural Infrastructure*, which provides feedback to concerned Government agencies and to the main LCG and addressing emerging issues in the rural infrastructure sector

- *The Nutrition Working Group (NWG)*: The NWG comprises of experts from various non-governmental organizations, UN agencies and related development partners, is also working on current nutrition issues of national interest, exchanging views and sharing ideas regarding the possible solution to these problems.

I.4.3. Budgeting and Financing

The provisions of the NFP PoA shall be effectively rooted into the strategic plans of line ministries/divisions and related budget strategy frameworks, as well as in central planning and budgetary processes, under the Annual Development Program and the Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF).

The MTBF is currently implemented by 14 line ministries³² and is planned to progressively include all ministries and agencies of the government. As a tool for improving public finance transparency and accountability, it requires the establishment of effective linkages between resource allocation and the strategic priorities of line ministries/divisions, in accordance with the goals stated in the PRSP. Under the MTBF, the Annual Development Program (ADP) serves as a major instrument for the implementation of the PRSP.

Given the extent of linkages between the NFP PoA and the PRSP agenda, effective alignment of ministries/divisions' budget strategy frameworks and the ADP with PRSP goals and priorities and the timely implementation of associated projects and programs shall provide significant leverage to the implementation of the NFP PoA in the *short-term/medium term*.

³² A key feature of the MTBF is that financial envelopes for recurrent (non development) and development spending (under the Annual Development Program (ADP)) have been integrated over a three year period, with a view to ensuring greater funding certainty to priority projects. The MTBF ministries, all key partners in the PoA implementation, currently include the Ministry of Education; Ministry of Primary and Mass Education; Ministry of Social Welfare; Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Local Government Division; Rural Development and Cooperatives; Ministry of Water Resources; Ministry of Communications; Ministry of Food and Disaster Management; Ministry of Environment and Forest; and Ministry of Science and ICT.

However, the Planning Commission of the Ministry of Planning and the Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance shall take particular responsibilities in ensuring that ministries/division level budget strategy frameworks and the ADP are prepared and resource allocations are made in close consonance with the more specific NFP PoA action agenda, with priority given to those projects and programs that will have a high and direct bearing on food security outcomes. In particular, they shall ensure that interventions proposed under the NFP PoA that do not fall under the PRSP agenda are given due consideration.

In line with the practice initiated in relation to the PRSP, line ministries shall be requested to link their budget proposals with the NFP/ PoA specific objectives and targets and to provide insights on the food security dimensions and impacts of their strategic objectives and associated projects and programs. Also, monitoring of national and sectoral budgetary allocations and implementation, especially under the ADP, to NFP relevant sectors and programs should be part of NFP PoA monitoring activities.

Representatives of the Planning Commission and the Finance Division in the TRTs shall serve as focal points in following-up on the above processes.

The Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance is expected to play a key role in external resource mobilization for on-going or new (approved or unapproved) programs and projects under the ADP that are not financed from internal sources and are deemed to be of high relevance to the implementation of the NFP PoA.

Finally, PoA monitoring activities shall be considered as an integral component of the NFP PoA implementation over the period 2008-2015 and shall receive adequate funding, following phasing-out of FAO-NFPCSP support.

1.5. PoA Monitoring Strategy Outline

The NFP document underscores strengthening food security monitoring efforts pointing notably to the need for *“continued information flows, analysis of information, knowledge of changing dynamics of food security environment, adequate number of options, short and long-run forecast of domestic and world supply and trade”* (see NFP Section E).

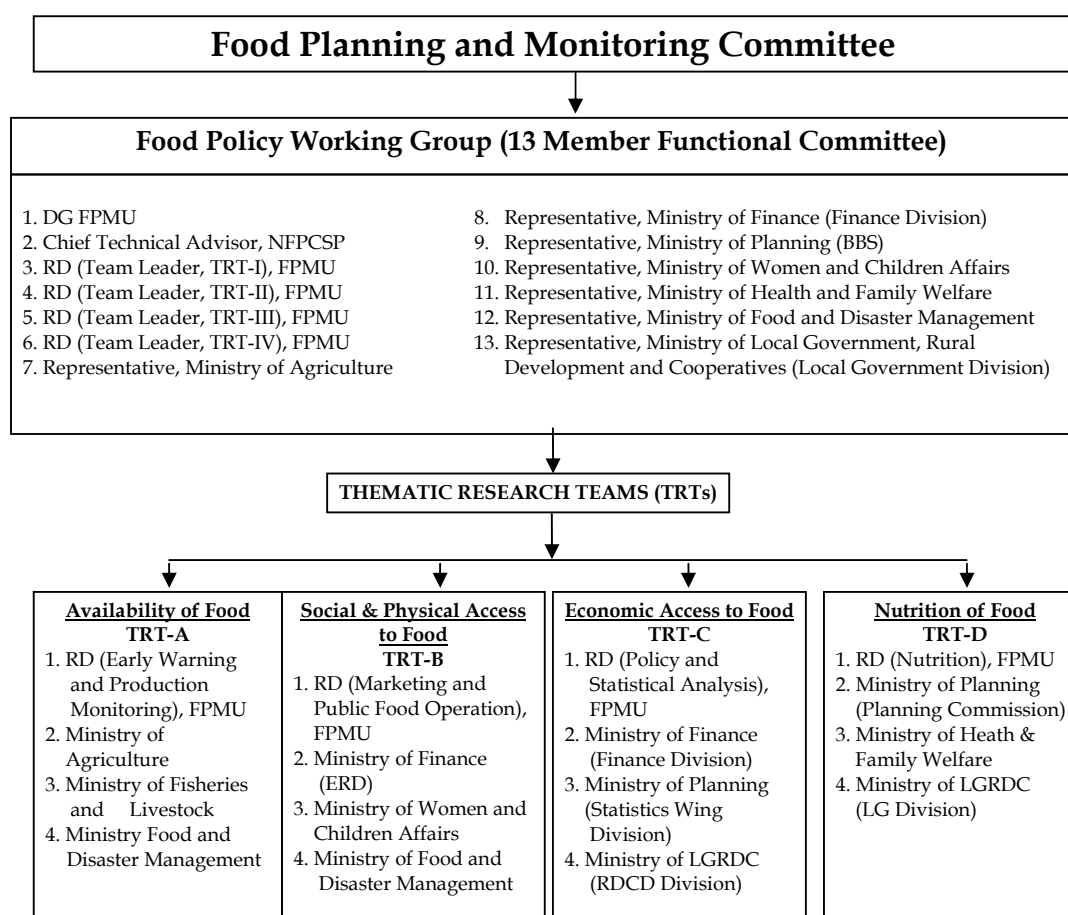
1.5.1. Core Institutional framework

The **Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC)**, chaired by the **Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM)** is the national policy body responsible for the planning and monitoring the implementation of food

security policies and programs, hereby consolidated in the NFP (2006) and its Plan of Action.

The NFP (2006) specifically states that the “national level “Food Planning and Monitoring Committee” chaired by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management will plan and monitor the overall national food security efforts, including food utilization and nutrition issues. Representatives of all ministries associated with food security activities (e.g. the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) will be in this committee so that progress on all aspects of food policy can be discussed to give necessary directives to formulate and implement food policy-related programs” (see NFP, 2006, p.22).

Chart 2 – Institutional Setting



In line with the expanded mandate of the FPMC foreseen in the NFP, an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism was put in place through the **Food Policy Working Group (FPWG)**. The FPWG includes representatives from planning units or policy wings of key line ministries involved in food security, namely, the MoFDM, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Finance, the

Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) under the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (Local Government Division).

The FPWG provides guidance and supervises the work of the four **Thematic Research Teams** on food availability (TRT-A), physical and social access (TRT-B), economic access (TRT-C) and nutrition/utilization of food (TRT-D), that comprise representatives of 12 ministries/departments.

The TRTs were established by the Government to provide analytical and secretarial support to the FPMC – including on the NFP PoA development and monitoring- under the leadership of the MoFDM Food Planning Monitoring Unit (FPMU) research directors and overall guidance of the FPWG (*see Chart 1*). The TRTs under the guidance of the FPWG, are meant to play a leading role in performing and coordinating NFP related analytical and monitoring activities.

The **Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU)**, located in the MoFDM, has been established as secretariat to the FPMC, assisting notably with the monitoring the overall food situation in the country through four technical units: (i) policy advisory services, research, analysis and global/macro policy linkages; (ii) food production monitoring, early warning and producer incentives, (iii) market monitoring, food operation planning and budget provisioning; and (iv) food consumption and nutrition monitoring and targeted interventions.

In line with the expanded mandate of the FPMC following NFP approval, the FPMU, through the TRTs and under the guidance of the FPWG, is meant to play a leading role in performing and coordinating NFP related secretarial and monitoring activities.

I.5.2. Scope and purpose of PoA monitoring activities

The PoA Matrix shall provide the basic reference framework for planning and operationalizing FPWG/FPMU/TRTs monitoring activities. Within this framework, and on the basis of information provided by partner ministries involved in direct monitoring and implementation of relevant programs and by other food security key informants, monitoring will involve:

- Identifying benchmarks and assessing and documenting progress towards the targets set for each area of intervention on the basis of the proposed set of output and input indicators (*implementation/output monitoring*)
- Assessing and documenting progress towards the outcomes associated with the core objectives of the NFP, the WFS and MDG food security targets, as well as assessing policy impacts (*impact/outcome monitoring*)

- Assessing the effectiveness, including cost-effectiveness of specific policies/programs and learn from experiences so that corrective measures can be taken promptly, and inform new program formulation.
- Mainstreaming results of monitoring and related analytical activities into food security policy-making and new food security program formulation.

I.5.3. Strategy outline

Continued and strengthened capacity and leadership building efforts *anchored on the MoFDM/FPMU expanded food security planning and monitoring mandate through the FPWG/TRTs* will be paramount in supporting NFP PoA implementation and monitoring.

Capacity-building support to overall PoA-related monitoring analytical and coordination activities will be primarily provided under the FAO – NFPCSP in the short-term/ medium-term.

The WFP, under its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MoFDM on “joint collaboration on strengthening food security” signed on 21 November 2006, will also assist with food security monitoring activities, with a focus on monitoring of household food security. Coordination of FAO/WFP support to monitoring activities will be ensured as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two agencies on 24 October 2004.

Planning: Within the existing institutional framework, capacity strengthening efforts shall focus on the technical requirements pertaining to each of the above monitoring strategic lines. In the first place and on the basis of the PoA Matrix, a more detailed “PoA Monitoring Plan” will be developed, with support of NFPCSP, so as to:

- Provide clear guidelines and well-defined roles and responsibilities among the FPMU, the TRTs, and other key implementing ministries not represented in the TRTs, regarding notably outcome monitoring *viz* monitoring of progress towards targets/outputs and program/project (input) monitoring.
- Review the set of indicators proposed in the PoA Matrix, provide benchmarks, and identify officially set – quantified medium term or long term targets.
- Take stock of existing food-security monitoring work (including data base, studies) and specify partnering strategies with other food-security relevant monitoring initiatives (see below)

- Identify and systemize strategies for relevant data gathering mechanisms and analysis, including consultative processes with government and non-government stakeholders at national and local levels, and reporting procedures allowing for the prompt dissemination of reliable information to concerned stakeholders;
- Specify key monitoring deliverables (nature and timelines) and related dissemination strategies.

Coordination and other tasks, as well as deliverables of the FPMU/TRTs with respect to the development and implementation of NFP PoA monitoring activities along the lines suggested above, will be specified in the TRTs' annual work plans (as approved by the FPWG).

The challenges involved in developing a simple but comprehensive monitoring system is fully acknowledged. Therefore, the PoA monitoring strategy shall draw extensively upon studies already available regarding, notably, the poverty/food security impact of various development programs in Bangladesh, as well as existing MDG/PRSP linked monitoring initiatives. This shall contribute to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize synergies, whilst fostering cross-fertilization of food security and poverty reduction monitoring information and knowledge.

In efforts to foster public awareness, transparency and accountability, as well as expand the monitoring information basis, the PoA monitoring strategy shall also encourage participatory monitoring processes.

Linking with PRSP/MDGs monitoring frameworks: This is warranted given the extent of the strategic linkages between the NFP PoA and the PRSP/MDGs frameworks (in terms of ST/MT action agendas, targets and suggested indicators), and the commonalities of the institutional frameworks which have been put in place for monitoring (see Table 3).

In particular, strategic linkages, based on identified areas of complementarities between monitoring plans and activities, shall be established with the following units/processes/initiatives:

The National Poverty Focal Point, General Economics Division of the Planning Commission (NPFP/GED). As part of PRSP monitoring and evaluation framework, the National Poverty Focal Point has been created in the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission to monitor poverty and track progress in implementing the PRSP. The NPFP is expected to grow and function as an institutionally effective and technically competent unit for monitoring the PRSP and the MDGs, with strong inter-ministerial linkages and interactions with various stakeholders outside the Government, including civil society and research institutes (through the working groups, see Table 3, col.2).

The NFPF/GED has already benefited from significant technical assistance on monitoring and evaluating progress on the PRS and on developing an institutional framework for poverty monitoring and evaluation³³. A UN-assisted project on “*Support to Monitoring Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) and MDGs in Bangladesh*” has been recently formulated to strengthen the capacity of Government professionals to track and monitor PRS/MDG progress, estimate the costs of achieving PRS/MDG targets, link those costs with the national budget and medium-term budgetary frameworks, and prepare future PRSPs.

Table 3 – Comparison of institutional settings for monitoring the NFP PoA and the PRSP/MDGs

NFP PoA Monitoring	PRSP/MDGs Monitoring
Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC)	National Steering Committee for Poverty Reduction
FPWG/FPMU (secretarial support to FPMC)	National Poverty Focal Point (secretarial support to National Steering Committee)
Thematic Research Teams led by FPMU (Representatives from partner ministries) for monitoring progress towards NFP objectives along the 4 main dimensions of FS (availability, physical and social access, economic access, nutrition and utilization of food)	Working Groups led by individual ministries for sectoral monitoring (representatives of partner ministries, NGOs, CSOs, professionals, etc...)
NFPCSP Research Grant Initiative (see below – participatory monitoring)	Independent Committee for Monitoring and Evaluation of PRS and Attainment of MDGs (Commissioning of M&E studies, research work etc...)
	National Research Fund

The establishment of a formal partnership between the FPMU and the GED is recommended in order to support an effective institutionalization of PoA monitoring activities within the broader PRS/MDGs monitoring framework.

MDG progress reports: Food security outcome/impact monitoring activities anchored to the NFP PoA, may notably benefit from but also contribute to the MDG Progress Reports which are produced on a regular basis jointly by the GoB and the UN Country Team through various technical working groups involving UN agencies, the GoB, NGOs and (as relevant) the private sector. As suggested in the last MDG Progress Report (2005), there is notably a need for adjusting the Sustainable Human Development modeling system, currently used to assess economic trends, to evaluate development options and to frame national policy, so as to better capture nutrition and health issues, in particular the nutritional status of different categories of households.

³³ See for instance the recently completed ADB project TA 4303 BAN Strengthening Capacities for Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation.

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), as the national statistical organization, is mandated to monitor the progress towards the MDGs by conducting periodic and *ad-hoc* surveys that will provide an important source of information for monitoring many of NFP-related food security outcomes. Major surveys providing data for monitoring the MDGs include: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Poverty Monitoring Survey, the Child Nutrition Survey, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Vital Registration Survey, Demographic Survey, Population Census, Agricultural Census, Economic Census, Labor Force Survey. The BBS and the Ministry of Planning have been developing an integrated database accessible to all government departments and BBS through their website. In this regard, it is planned notably to introduce the “DevInfo” software to facilitate the monitoring of the MDGs.

The Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED, Ministry of Planning), which is mandated with the monitoring and evaluation of projects included in the Annual Development Program (ADP), based on PRSP strategies and policies.

Linking with other initiatives/programs/projects involving the production of food security monitoring information: As noted earlier, the monitoring strategy shall involve taking stock and developing information and knowledge-sharing mechanisms with various initiatives, involving the production of monitoring information and data on key food security variables (e.g. the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) project, the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM)³⁴, the Nutritional Surveillance Project (NSP)³⁵).

Participatory monitoring: Whilst primarily performed at the central level, the monitoring of the NFP PoA is meant to be participatory and shall seek to involve to the extent possible representatives of local government bodies and civil society, with a view to obtaining constructive feedback from stakeholders at grassroots level. In this regard, consultative mechanisms already established through the FPMU/TRTs in relation to the development of the PoA - including participation of regional /local government and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)’ representatives in technical workshops and seminars – shall be strengthened and expanded in the context of monitoring activities (data/information gathering, discussion of intermediate monitoring outputs

³⁴ Under the umbrella of Bangladesh FAO-supported FIVIMS and WFP – VAM (Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping), upazila level maps of food insecurity, calorie intake and child malnutrition, using techniques of small area estimation have been developed in collaboration with BBS and the Bangladesh Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance and Planning in 2004.

³⁵ The project supported by Helen Keller International and Institute of Public Health Nutrition is an important source of data on health, nutrition and household food security of women and children in Bangladesh. Information generated by the NSP over the last decade and a half has helped inform policymakers, program managers and donor organizations on many development concerns in the country, including health, nutrition, food security, homestead food production, gender disparities, and rural and urban poverty.

etc...). Opportunities for consultations with grassroots level stakeholders, including farmers shall also be actively explored.

Furthermore, participatory monitoring will be supported through various activities of the NFPCSP and other projects geared towards enhancing GoB/CSOs dialogue and collaboration with CS research institutions. Component 2 of the NFPCSP has been specifically designed with a view to expanding CSOs capacities to conduct food security research, with special reference to the NFP PoA implementation, and to promoting dialogue between CSOs, including private enterprises, universities, research centers, think tanks, NGOs and the general public on food security issues and the NFP, through regular seminars and workshops. Under its Research Grant Initiative, the NFPCSP supports short term research on best practices in food security programs and policies (under Challenge Fund initiative) and more long-term oriented research on various food security emerging and priority issues (under the Program Research) that are of relevance to many areas of intervention covered by this PoA³⁶. Monitoring of the NFP PoA will also benefit from research work under the planned PRSP/MDGs related National Research Fund (see Table 3).

1.6. Key Assumptions

The effective implementation of the PoA basically requires a strong commitment among all stakeholders starting from grass root to national level.

Whilst various assumptions have been highlighted in the PoA Matrix (Appendix 2) in relation to specific areas of intervention and their related targets, several assumptions, and underlying risks, which bear virtually on all components of this PoA will need to be carefully monitored and addressed as part of its implementation. These include:

Continued political commitment towards Food Security and Poverty Reduction: Given the time horizon of the PoA, continuity in GoB commitment to reduce poverty and improve food security and effectively implement the NFP and its PoA will be critical.

i). Whilst efforts have been made to make the preparation of the PoA as consultative as possible, continuous dialogue and communication on the priorities enshrined in the NFP and its PoA among the leading stakeholders will be essential to build-up/maintain consensus.

Adequate implementation and coordination capacities: Responsible national agencies shall have appropriate capacities, material, human and financial - to carry out interventions proposed in the PoA in a timely and effective manner.

³⁶ Which have been identified in a participatory manner and consolidated into a Research Needs Digest (see <http://www.nfpcsp.org/rnd.pdf>).

Limited turnover among core staff of implementing and coordinating agencies will also be critical to ensure continuity in the implementation of the PoA and to enhance the effectiveness of related capacity strengthening activities.

ii). The effective implementation of the PoA will thus be conditional upon continuous efforts to establish adequate management capacities in partner ministries and agencies. Progress on the PRSP agenda on public administration reforms alongside the expansion of training and capacity-building initiatives will also be of paramount importance in this regard.

iii) Meanwhile, it is recommended to review, streamline and strengthen the awareness-raising, communication and inter-government agency consultative processes that have been initiated by the MoFDM/FPMU/TRTs in the course of the PoA development.

As stressed earlier, the effective implementation of the PoA will also depend on continued and strengthened *coordination and collaboration* within and between Government agencies, at national and local level, CSOs/NGOs, the private sector, the academia, development partners, as well as on the establishment of an adequate monitoring system.

Enabling macro-economic/fiscal framework: Implementation of the PoA will require sizeable and sustained investments in agricultural research, rural infrastructure, health, education, food based and other social safety nets, as well as in nutrition programs.

Assessing funding adequacy would require costing all interventions proposed in the PoA based on relevant program and project information. As an indication, the estimated cost of implementing the five-year action plan laid down in the MoA Actionable Policy Brief (2006), - which has been significantly mainstreamed in this PoA (especially under Objective 1)- amounts to a minimum of 80.7 million USD.

iv) Accurate and more comprehensive estimates of resource requirements needed for implementing the overall action agenda of the PRSP and achieving the MDGs (PRSP/MDGs costing³⁷), as foreseen under recently formulated technical assistance programs (see above), shall contribute to help gauging the financial needs associated with the implementation of the NFP PoA and related fiscal implications.

Financial constraints on the effective implementation of the NFP and its PoA in the ST/MT also need to be assessed against the Medium Term Macro-economic Framework (MTMF) set forth in the current PRSP (2005-07), and the potential adjustments that may arise in relation to the extension of the PRSP until June 2008.

³⁷ Financial requirements for achieving MDG2 (Education) are provided in the MDG Progress Report, 2005 and costing of specific programs (Primary school program, Sanitation program, school-lunch program is given in PRSP, Chapter VII. The draft PRS II (FY-09-FY11) involves more detailed costing which could be used as a reference.

The current MTMF identifies macroeconomic stability as a precondition to economic growth and underscores improved fiscal discipline and a tight monetary policy.

Both equity and growth being of concern, the priority is to accelerate real GDP growth along with employment generation for the poor from the present 6.6 % to 7 % in FY08. The PRSP envisions an increase in gross domestic investment (which stood at 24.7% in FY06) to over 26% in FY08. The Government aims to increase public investment by increasing domestic revenues, reducing State Owned Enterprises losses and subsidies, and increasing external borrowing. The tax-GDP ratio is planned to be increased to 9.6 % in FY08 by expanding the tax basis, minimizing exemptions and exclusions, reducing evasion, and implementing procedural and administrative reforms.

Given the limited extent to which private sector resources may be mobilized for food-security and pro-poor/social investments and given weak performance in domestic revenue collection, increased public expenditure is likely to induce significant broadening of the fiscal deficit. As ceilings on government borrowing from bank and non-bank sources currently apply, this can only be accommodated through increased external financing. The MTMF suggests that the net financing requirements would be around 4.4% of the GDP during FY06-09 of which about 2.5% is to come from foreign sources. In other words, Bangladesh will have to access USD 0.75 billion worth of incremental foreign aid annually within an average annual target of USD 2.0 billion³⁸.

In the FY06, total foreign financing was 0.8% of GDP against PRSP target of 2.5%. Over its 35-year history, Bangladesh has received US\$15 billion in Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), compared to US\$30 billion in commitments. This gap is especially meaningful in view of the fact that project aid, which accounts for the bulk of all aid, has accounted for about one-third of the government's total development spending under the Annual Development Program (ADP) in recent years.

The national capacity to attract additional external assistance needs in turn to be gauged against the fact that Development Partners' support is being increasingly conditioned by the progress made on the implementation of PRSP implementation governance-related agenda.

v) Continued prioritization of agriculture/agro-based development and pro-poor expenditure, as part of MTBF processes and the ADP, along with greater effectiveness in domestic/external resource mobilization and development spending, will therefore be paramount to supporting the implementation of the NFP.

³⁸ D. Bhattacharya, Delivering on the PRSP in Bangladesh, An Analysis of the Implementation Challenges, CPD, November 2005.

Bangladesh budgeting and public expenditure patterns recognizes the importance of poverty reduction, food security and human development, as evidenced by increased allocations to health, education and technology, social safety nets, along with increased prioritization of infrastructure, energy and agriculture in recent years.

Thus, budgetary allocations to the agricultural sector increased significantly in the last two years, by 42% in FY07 over FY06 and another 29.6% in FY08 budget over FY07 revised budget, accounting for 8% of total allocation for FY07. Agricultural support includes subsidies (esp. for diesel and electricity used in irrigation) and increased allocations for agricultural research and special funds (e.g. Equity Entrepreneurship Fund). Targets related to the distribution of agricultural credit, including credit support to agro-based industries have also been raised. Several key agricultural inputs (fertilizers, seeds) have been exempted from import duties and taxes. To support the development of the agro-processing sector, tax exemption facility has been extended up to June 2008.

Allocations to safety net programs recorded a 36% increase in FY08 budget, including 36.2% for VGD, VGF, Test relief and Gratuitous relief programs. Increased attention has also been paid (through micro-credit support) to raising employment opportunities for women and vulnerable groups (people living in *monga* and river erosion prone areas). Concerns over the adverse impacts of food price inflation on poor consumers have also been reflected through the withdrawal of import duties on various essential commodities, including rice and wheat.

vi) Within the framework of this PoA, mitigating potentially adverse trade-offs between food security and macro-stability goals, will notably requires a clear definition of the respective roles of domestic production, imports, and food stocks in stabilizing food prices and supplies, and the role envisioned for the private sector and government (especially in terms of subsidization) in carrying out each of these functions.

Other assumptions

As noted earlier, progress on PRSP agenda on local governance (in particular, implementation progress on projects such as the “Local Governance Support Project” for strengthening capacities and broadening the functions of UPs³⁹) will be essential to support the effective implementation of the PoA. In line with several interventions contemplated under the PoA, efforts of implementing agencies in operationalizing implementation practices, such as community and private sector participation, regulation, accountability, result-orientation will also be critical.

³⁹ Source: Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Joint Committee for Monitoring the Implementation Progress of the PRS vis-à-vis Donor Coordination, held on 26 February 2007

PART II -THE NFP PLAN OF ACTION (PoA) MATRIX

NATIONAL FOOD POLICY (NFP) PLAN OF ACTION (PoA, 2008-2015*) MATRIX

*Action timeframes: ST/MT = FY07-08-FY10-11; MT/LT = FY10-11-FY14-15; Cont. = Continuous)

NFP GOAL

"to ensure dependable sustained food security for all people of the country at all times"

Outcome-target indicators:

WFS (number of undernourished people) – Target: reduced from 39.3 million (1990-1992) to 19.65 by 2015

MDG (prevalence of undernourished) – Target: reduced from 35% (1990-2002) to 17.5 % by 2015

Means of verification:

FAO State of Food Insecurity Reports

NFP Objective 1: To ensure adequate and stable supply of safe and nutritious food

Outcome/impact indicators:

Availability/Adequacy of supply: Agricultural GDP; food supply (domestic production, net imports, variation in stocks) compared to national requirements, food production and consumption requirements disaggregated by regions

Stability of supply: Variability of food production; food import dependency ratio, variability of food prices

Means of verification (source of information):

Food balance sheets

Production and price data for key essential food commodities

HH surveys

Efficient and sustainable increase in food production (NFP 1.1)

Key areas of intervention	Targets	Indicators	Action Time frame	Actions	Means of verification	Responsible actors	Assumptions
1.1 Agricultural research and extension	• Demand-driven crop and non-crop new technologies developed and disseminated. • Demand led and pro-poor extension service expanded.	Target/Output indicators # of new rice and non-rice crop varieties, appropriate agricultural machineries and post harvest agricultural technologies developed # of new fish culture and management technologies, improved breeds for livestock and vaccines developed # of new technologies disseminated through extension agents % increase of farmers adopting IPM	ST/MT	<i>(Agricultural Research)</i> In line with PRSP policy matrix 4/APB (2006) • Continue exploring alternative sources of funding • Improve existing/ Create appropriate new research infrastructure including regional and sub-regional research stations and laboratories • Undertake appropriate training programs • Focus attention to rain-fed production system specific to AEZ	Reports of responsible ministries and other agencies BBS HIES reports Agricultural Census Reports	MoA, NARS, DAE, BARC, MoFL, AIS, SRDI, DoF, DLS Private sector, NGOs, AUs, Development Partners	Continued commitment to support research and extension services
		Input indicators: Research budget and block grant provided for	MT/LT	• Implement institutional reform and enactment of unified legislation for semi autonomous research institute • Strengthen biotechnology related research and			

		research operating expenses. # of scientist trained # of livestock artificially inseminated # of farmers (especially poor farmers), field technicians, extension agents, seed producers, traders and field officers trained on improved crop, fish and livestock production technologies and marketing and on IPM #of field demonstration made on improved production technique. # of hatchery	Cont. ST/MT MT/LT	development and ensure its application to different fields of agriculture • Direct research attention to land, labor and resource conservation technology • Improve and institutionalize research and resource management systems • Encourage public-private-NGO collaboration in R&D • Promote research on IPM <i>In line with Fishery Sub-sector Roadmap (2006),</i> • Strengthen capacities of existing livestock research institutes • Strengthen institutional capacities to conduct basic, applied, adaptive and strategic research for pro-poor sustainable growth and development • Scale-up research on biodiversity in inland waters and fisheries management • Promote research on culture systems, species, genetics, disease control, quality of aquaculture products • Promote research on improved inland capture fisheries management. • Conduct research on improved marine fisheries management			
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				<i>(Agricultural Extension)</i> <i>In line with APB (2006),</i> • Introduce different modern extensions tools (e.g demo farms, farmer schools) • Develop a comprehensive training program for farmers, input dealers, seed producers and field technicians • Adopt community or group based extension and training system • Reactivate ATIs and CERDI for professional training, including SAAO and training of trainers			
			ST/MT				
			MT/LT	• Set up 'Specialized Agricultural Service Centre' at Upazila level • Establish a permanent Advisory Committee on agricultural research and extension			
			Cont.	• Strengthen Agricultural Information Service			
			ST	<i>In the line with PRSP, NAEP (1996) and PoA for NAP (2004)</i> • Assess existing linkages between research and extension and identify areas for improvement			
			Cont.	• Publicize different broadcasts for creating mass awareness on animal husbandry through different media • Strengthen coordination between research and extension services • Arrange distribution of new			

				vaccines according to needs			
			ST/MT	(Others) • Promote GO-NGO- private sector collaboration in delivering extension services • Install a system of evaluating result of demonstration blocks in terms of technology adoption and yield gains • Improve coverage of extension services to disadvantaged segments of the rural population, including women			
			Cont	<i>In line with Fishery-Sub-sector Roadmap (2006)</i> • Strengthen extension advice to small fish and shrimp farmers through needs analysis, training, establishment of farmer groups • Strengthen DoF's extension capacity and skills • Extend the LEAF concept to all Upazilas			
			ST/MT	<i>In line with Livestock Sub-sector roadmap (2006),</i> • Extend veterinary services to grass root levels			
			Cont	(Others) Ascertain ST and LT health effects of GM foods through biotechnological research			

1.2. Use and management of water resources	• Irrigation coverage increased • Improved delivery and efficient use of safe irrigation water • Dependency on ground water reduced • Cost of irrigation reduced	Target/Output Indicators % of land area extended under different modes of irrigation Unit irrigation cost across crops and regions Level of arsenic contamination of surface and ground irrigation water <i>Input indicators:</i> Kilometers of canal excavated and repaired # of irrigation structures constructed and repaired # of pilot programs undertaken combining irrigation and flood control. # of farmers and agricultural workers trained on efficient use of irrigation water and on-farm water management	ST/MT	In line with PRSP policy matrix 4/APB (2006) • Extend irrigation facilities and ease access to irrigation equipments • Regulate and rationalize water price charged by different irrigation providers • Provide training to farmers and agricultural workers for improving use of irrigation water and on-farm water management • Restructure irrigation wing of BADC • Increase the number of surface water treatment plants	Reports of relevant ministries and other agencies Surveys Assessments Reports of responsible ministries and other agencies BBS reports News papers Surveys	MoA DAE BADC BMDA BWDB WARPO PDB, REB, Titas gas MoL MoWR Private sector Development Partners	Continued commitment to develop irrigation in a sustainable way/ Commitment and adequate funding to implement APB
			Cont	• Ensure uninterrupted power supply to electric pumps • Continue market oriented policies for the development of irrigation system • Extend use of surface water • Monitor arsenic contamination through irrigation water			
			MT/LT	• Promote area-based irrigation management systems using participatory approaches • Select suitable sites for dual purpose (irrigation and flood control) pump house • Mainstream irrigation programs in major flood control projects • Explore possibilities of replacing diesel engine with CNG (bottled) operated engines			

1.3. Adequate supply and sustainable use of agricultural inputs	• Increased supply of quality crop seeds • Increased supply of quality seeds and feeds for fish and poultry farming • Timely supply and balanced use of fertilizers ensured • Agricultural machines and implements available at affordable prices • Strengthened IPM and ICM • Increased efficiency and sustainability of agricultural land use • Agricultural land use for non-agricultural purposes effectively regulated	Target/Output indicators Quantity of seed production # of seeds certified Organic contents in the soil Inputs supply and demand matched throughout seasons # of farmers applying balanced NPK and other micro-nutrients # farmers adopting IPM and ICM # of new agricultural machineries and post harvest technologies innovated and disseminated % of arable land used for non-agricultural purposes # of AEZ-specific cropping patterns developed Input indicators Quantity of foundation and breeder seed supplied # of private seed companies having R & D facilities. # of farmers trained on quality seed production	ST/MT MT/LT Cont. ST/MT	In line with PRSP policy matrix 4) /APB (2006) on production of quality seed/National seed policy (1993) • Ensure supply of foundation and breeder seeds to registered seed producers • Liberalize seed import • Undertake farmer's level quality seed production program • Strengthen seed certification system • Support private sector for seed development and seed trade In line with APB (2006)/AP NAP PoA,2004/MoA Medium Term Plan • Encourage use of organic manure/bio-fertilizer • Encourage IPM and ICM, with focus on minimal use of pesticides and provision of appropriate training to the farmers • Develop training and demonstration programs for farmers and mechanics /artisans in operation, maintenance and repair of common agricultural machines • Review and rationalize the existing urea distribution system • Review and rationalize tariff rates affecting import of spares/raw materials for farm machinery • Provide support to local manufacturers of agricultural machines		MoA DAE BADC NARS SCA MoFL, DOF DLS MoL MoEF MoI MoC BARC BMDA Private sector Development Partners	• Continued commitment to support private sector participation. • Effective coordination efforts between ministries and agencies involved in the use of land and protection of the environment
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		# of farmers and agricultural technicians and traders trained on IPM # of farmers trained on preparing and use of organic manure # of upazilas developing soil testing facilities % of farmers applying balance fertilizer	MT/LT Cont. ST/MT ST/MT Cont.	• Extend soil test facilities up to upazila and union levels • Formulate a comprehensive agricultural mechanization policy <i>In line with Fishery Sub-sector Roadmap (2006)</i> • Improve brood management • Reduce inbreeding practices • Promote supply of quality inputs (seeds and feeds) for fish farming by the private sector • Develop hatchery regulations • Regulate the use of chemicals and hazardous elements in fish farming, processing and marketing <i>In line with the National Agricultural Policy (1999), the National Land Use Policy (2001) and the APB (2006)</i> • Enforce existing/ develop new regulations to preserve the use of fertile arable land for agricultural purpose • Develop land-zoning and Agro-Ecological Zones (AEZ)-based land development plans based on sustainable and profitable cropping patterns in both coastal and mainland districts <i>In line with Livestock sub-sector roadmap (2006)</i> • Promote production of quality feed • Promote production of			
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			ST/MT	forage and conventional and alternative feed • Reduce inbreeding practices <i>(Others)</i> Examine the impact of current input price policies and subsidies on agricultural profitability and competitiveness			
Key Areas of Intervention	Targets	Indicators	Action Time frame	Actions	Means of verification	Responsible actors	Assumptions
1.4. Agricultural Diversification	• Increased production of high value crops • Increased production of fish and livestock	Target/Output Indicators % increase in maize, potato, pulses, oilseeds vegetables and fruits , and spices production % increase in fish production in closed and semi-closed water % increase in production of red meat, milk , poultry meat, and egg	ST/MT MT/LT ST/MT	• <i>Implement PoA under AoI #1.1 (Research and Extension for non-cereal crops), AoI #1.6 (Physical Market Infrastructure Development) and 1. 7 (Agricultural marketing and Trade).</i> <i>In line with MoA Medium Term Plan (crops)</i> • Prepare and implement special work plan for 25% increase in high value crops • Introduce modern varieties of maize, pulses, oilseed, vegetables, fruits, spices, etc. and disseminate to farmers <i>In line with PRSP and Fishery Sector Roadmap (2006) (Fish)</i> • Promote production of quality fish feeds using	Reports of responsible ministries and other agencies Agricultural surveys BBS reports	MoA DAE BADC DAM Hortex Foundation NARS AIS BMDA SCA MoFL DoF DLS Ministry of Land Private Sector Farmers Development Partners	Adequate coordination between MoA and MoFL

			MT/LT	domestic ingredients			
			Cont.	• Bring Jalmohal (large water bodies) and inundated areas under community-based management through organizing fishermen • Popularize and promote rice-fish cultivation			
			Cont.	<i>In line with PRSP Livestock Sector Roadmap(2006)</i> • Extend artificial insemination program nationwide • Ensure supply of vaccines and arrange treatment facilities • Continue providing incentives for the extension of milk and meat industry • Promote commercial layer and broiler chicken production. • Promote goat and sheep production			
			MT/LT	• Ascertain extension of livestock health service and quality feed • Promote production of organic semi-scavenging chicken, duck and fowls (Quail, Goose, Pigeon, Guinea) production • Develop buffalo dairy cows and production areas			
			ST/MT	<i>In line with the PRSP</i> • In line with AoI#1.3 continue promoting integrated crop management • Promote integrated fish-crop-livestock farming systems			

Efficient food markets (NFP 1.2)							
Key areas of intervention	Targets	Indicators	Action Time frame	Actions	Means of verification	Responsible Actors	Assumptions
1.6. Physical market infrastructure development	- Improved private storage, market and transportation facilities - Improved market connectivity at local, national and international levels	<i>Target/Output Indicators</i>	ST/MT	<i>In line with APB (2006)</i>	Reports of relevant ministries and other agencies	MoA DAM BADC MoF MoLGRDC/ LGD	Adequate funding
		Kilometers of different types of roads, and bridge/culvert constructed and maintained	MT/LT	- Provide special credit facilities for developing appropriate storage/preservation, packaging and transportation of goods - Encourage multi-purpose mini cold storage	Assessments /studies	MoC	Commitment to facilitate private sector participation and coordination between private and public sectors
		# of growth centers, rural Hats/Bazaar including women market centre constructed	ST/MT	<i>In line with PRSP Policy Matrix 11</i>	BBS	MoFDM Bangladesh Railway MoS BIWTA BB NCBs Private sector, Development Partners	
		# of wagons in service.		- Expand and maintain road linkages between farms and markets - Develop policy framework on private sector participation in road infrastructure development - Improve submersible roads, <i>ghats</i>, growth centres hats etc. - Strengthen support to infrastructure development in vulnerable areas - Modernize and reform the management and operations of ports.			
		# of railway tracks, bridges and culverts and railway station rehabilitated/renovated.					
		# of private storage units	MT/LT	- Develop mechanisms to ensure participation and involvement of communities, local government/institutions, NGOs in planning and design of infrastructure development projects - Establish a private port at a suitable location.			

			Cont. ST/MT Cont.	- Promote quality and maintain good hygienic practices in fish marketing chain - Promote refrigerated transport <i>In line with PRSP Livestock sub-sector roadmap (2006),</i> - Organize mass media campaigns and promote consumer awareness - Develop pilot marketing system for organic chicken and eggs <i>In line with APB (2006)</i> - Establish an Agribusiness Fund <i>In line with PoA AoI#1.5</i> Improve rural credit delivery (see Agricultural Credit)			
1.8. Policy/regulatory environment	Updated legislation regulating food markets enacted and enforced	<i>Target/Output Indicators</i> New/updated legislation regulating food markets Level of market charges taxes, levies	Cont. ST/MT	<i>In line with APB (2006),</i> - Monitor private storage and food supply practices - Amend the 2002 "Market Management and Leasing Policy" and Agricultural Markets Produce Regulation Act of 1964 - Rationalize market charges, taxes, levies etc. - Remove restrictions on private building/hire/lease of storage space - Enactment of anti-trust and anti-monopoly acts	Amended acts Government circulars Policy documents Reports of relevant ministries and other agencies	Finance Division, NBR Chambers MOA MoLGRDC /LGD MoC MoLJPA Development Partners	Political commitment to enact new acts/rules and to enforce existing rules Effective coordination between public and private sectors
1.9. Early warning system development	Early warning and response systems operating effectively	<i>Target/Output indicators</i> # of quality of food security monitoring reports	ST/MT	- Assess functioning, technical and organizational capacities of current early warning system - Evaluate current strategies	Monitoring /forecasting reports by relevant institutions	MoSICT, MoFDM, FPMU, LGED UP MoA	Skilled manpower and necessary equipment made available

	Domestic early warning system effectively integrated and coordinated with global early warning system	# of data bases incorporating periodic quality data # of appropriate models for evaluation, monitoring and forecasting	MT/LT	and methodologies for assessing the impacts of climate change (including global warming) on natural and human resources - Develop/strengthen access to adequate information/ data base on production, price, climate change and other variables, through greater reliance on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) - Develop/ upgrade existing forecasting models to provide accurate information on food price, demand, supply and production - Strengthen capacities to make an effective use of early warning systems for generation and dissemination of information to relevant stakeholders - Strengthen linkages between global early warning and national early warning systems		DAE, MoC BMD All food security partner ministries Development Partners	Commitment to develop/strengthen food security monitoring systems Adequate coordination and information sharing between various data providers
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Non-distortionary foodgrain market intervention for price stabilization (NFP 1.3)

Key areas of intervention	Targets	Indicators	Action Time frame	Actions	Means of verification	Responsible Actors	Assumptions
1.10. Producer price support	- Enhanced - effectiveness of public procurement system - Producer price effectively supported during post-harvest	<i>Target/Output Indicators</i> Quantity procured domestically Procurement prices	Cont.	<i>In line with PRSP Policy Matrix 8 / NFP and PoA under AoI#1.9</i> - Improve methodologies for determining procurement prices and procurement requirements, based on production costs, market prices and import costs - Make decisions about	Cost-effectiveness assessments/ studies Reports of: DG, Food FPMU's Daily and	MoFDM DG. Food FPMU MoF MoC MoSW CBOs MoF MoSW	Adequate funding of procurement system

	seasons			procurement price and targets more transparent - Assess cost-effectiveness and impacts of procurement activities - Increase purchases through open competitive tenders	weekly monitoring reports on procurement and prices	Development Partners	
1.11. Public stock management/ Price stabilization	- Improved public stock management - Adequate public storage facilities and capacities - Enhanced effectiveness of OMS	<i>Target/Output Indicators</i> Quantity procured as % of target Buffer stock as % of the target, at the beginning of the fiscal year (NFP) Quantity of foodgrain sold through OMS per year Effects of OMS on market prices Quantity of food distributed through PFDS	Cont Cont./ST/MT MT/LT	<i>In line with PRSP Policy Matrix 8</i> - Continue maintaining public food grain stock at various places - Continue encouraging private grain stocks through storage programs for various kinds of foods - Implement PoA under AoI # 1.9 to ensure continuous monitoring of private stocks, imports and timely provision of information for optimal stocking and timely interventions - Strengthen effectiveness of OMS schemes and other food distribution mechanisms - Modernize practices of public food stock management, also through greater use of ICT, esp. computer based systems for monitoring storage and stock positions - Ensure transparent use of public foodgrain stocks - Explore the possibility of public-private partnerships for expanding storage facilities under the PFDS - Lease underutilized public storage facilities to private sector users	Reports of responsible agencies	MoF MoC MoFDM DG, Food (MIS) MoSICT CBOs Private sector Development Partners	Availability of adequate warehouse in public sector Commitment to promote private storage development

			Cont.	• <i>Implement PoA under AoI#2.4 to improve targeted distribution operations (VGD, Food/cash for work, VGF, Food/cash for education)</i>			
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NFP Objective 2: Increased purchasing power and access to food of the people

Outcome/Impact Indicators:

Proportion of people below the poverty line – MDG1 Target: Reduced proportion of people below US\$1 per day (PPP) from 58.8% in 1991 to 29.4% by 2015

Proportion of people in extreme poverty – MDG1 Target: Proportion of people in extreme poverty reduced from 28% in 1991 to 14% by 2015

% increase in average HH cash income from on-farm and off-farm income generating activities

HH with no food gap – have sufficient food to meet HH needs in all 12 months of the year

income sources per HH

% of HH income spent on food

Food price index; variability in food prices

Means of Verification:

BBS HIES surveys

Other HH surveys

Transitory shock management (NFP 2.1)

Key areas of intervention	Targets	Indicators	Action Time frame	Actions	Means of verification	Responsible Actors	Assumptions
2.1. Agricultural Disaster management	Enhanced disaster preparedness and post-disaster rehabilitation in agricultural systems	<i>Target/Output indicators</i> Area affected by crop losses Quantity or value of crop, livestock,, poultry, fish losses <i>Input indicators</i> # of new resistant seed varieties developed Early warning and forecasting systems operating effectively Disaster management training centres operating effectively # of training programs on disaster risk reduction and mitigation in agricultural sectors	Cont. (as needed) ST/LT	<i>In line with PoA for AoI#1.1 :</i> - Continue research programs on drought/ submergence/ disease tolerant varieties and associated technologies; - Implement integrated disease/ pest management programs <i>In line with PoA for AoI # 1.2</i> - Implement programs on irrigation supplementation during drought, - Mainstream irrigation programs in major flood control projects - Strengthen effectiveness of existing post-disaster rehabilitation programs in	Reports of responsible ministries and other agencies BBS reports Sectoral surveys Studies Training materials and reports Government Directives/ circulars	MoFDM/DM B Agricultural Research Institutes MoA/DAE MoFL MoWR MoLGRDC/LGD MoF SAARC MoL PKSF NGOs Private sector Development Partners	Commitment to effectively implement the National Plan for Disaster Management with particular focus on the agricultural sector

			(as needed) ST/MT MT/LT Cont.	agriculture • Ensure timely delivery of seeds and seedlings after disasters • <i>Effectively implement PoA under AoI#1.9 to strengthen early warning system</i> <i>In line with PoA for AoI#1.5</i> • Explore the feasibility of introducing insurance mechanisms for small farmers and other agricultural producers <i>In line with National Plan for Disaster Management (2007-2015):</i> • Train professional staff on agricultural disaster risk reduction and preparedness, early warning and forecasting system and post-disaster activities. • Develop awareness programs • Develop agricultural community-based action plans/programs for risk reduction;			
2.2 Emergency Food Distribution from Public Stocks	• Improved coverage and effectiveness of emergency distribution programs	<i>Target/Output indicators</i> % of disaster-affected people adequately covered by emergency programs in times of need Adequacy of public food stocks to emergency needs Timeliness of distribution		• <i>Implement PoA under AoI#1.9, 1.11 for improving public stock management effectiveness</i> • <i>In line with PRSP (Matrices 8 and 17), implement NFP POA under AoI # 2.4 to raise effectiveness of targeted program</i>	Poverty/vulnerability maps Program cost-effectiveness assessments Reports of responsible ministries and agencies	MoFDM MoSW MoA MoC MoF MoHFW NGOs Development Partners	No major supply constraints

			ST/MT Cont.	- Link emergency food distribution system to SARC <i>In line with PoA under AoI# 3, 6</i>, strengthen efforts to improve the nutritional contents of emergency food distribution	Participatory surveys Media, UP representative s, social workers		
2.3 Enabling Environment for private food trade and stocks	See targets under AoIs# 1.6, 1.7, 1.8	See indicators under, AoI 1.6,1.7,1.8		<i>Implement PoA for AoI # 1.6,1.7,1.8</i>		See AoI#1. 6, 1.7, 1.8	See AoIs# 1. 6,1.7,1.8

Effective implementation of targeted programs to improve food security (NFP 2.2)

Key areas of intervention	Targets	Indicators	Action Time frame	Actions	Means of verification	Responsible Actors	Assumptions
2.4 Effectiveness of targeted food security programs and safety nets	- Improved coverage of vulnerable and disadvantaged people and areas (esp. <i>Monga</i>-prone areas) - Improved targeting - Improved cost-effectiveness - Reduced leakage - Enhanced adequacy to vulnerable people's nutritional needs	<i>Target/Output indicators</i> % of vulnerable people (poor women and children / disabled and other disadvantaged people) effectively covered by programs Program/safety net coverage in vulnerable areas, especially <i>monga</i> prone areas Degree of leakage (major programs) Nutrient content of food distributed Adequacy of calories supplied (food-based programs) <i>Input indicators</i>	ST/MT Cont.	(Targeted food-based and cash programs) <i>In line with PRSP Policy Matrix 6</i> - Examine cost-effectiveness of targeted programs, including emergency relief - Review adequacy of transfer amounts, and targeting (including geographical targeting) methodologies - Strengthen accountability mechanisms in the implementation and administration of existing programs - Strengthen capacity of implementing institutions at national and local levels - Promote regular and effective monitoring and evaluation of programs	Reports of relevant ministries and agencies Cost-effectiveness assessment studies Participatory surveys Training materials Program implementation and monitoring guidelines Research studies	MoSW MoFDM MoWCA MoLGRDC/ RDCD MoHFW MoL MoPME MoCHTA MoF NGOs Development Partners	No major food supply constraints Commitment to promote local participation in program design and implementation Continued support of Development Partners

		New targeting methodologies Effective monitoring and overseeing mechanisms Local participation in program design	ST/MT ST/MT MT/LT	• Enhance participation of local communities in program development and implementation, monitoring and evaluation • Expand coverage of programs/ review design of programs for the ultra-poor/ destitute women, disabled people, slum dwellers, landless, elderly and other disadvantaged groups and areas. • Strengthen nutrition components of food based programs <i>(Other social safety nets)</i> • Continue provision of shelter to homeless/landless people • Phased-in increase in coverage of old age and widow allowance and pensions • Expand coverage and strengthen the effectiveness of employment generation - focused safety net programs (FFW/CFW) in <i>Monga</i>-prone areas and other disadvantaged regions • Integrate food and non-food based safety net into a comprehensive social security policy framework			
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Employment-generating income growth (NFP 2.3)

Key areas of intervention	Targets	Indicators	Action Time frame	Actions	Means of verification	Responsible Actors	Assumptions
2.5. Income generation for rural women and disabled people	Enhanced participation of women and disabled people in rural agricultural/other rural activities	Target/Output indicators % increase of rural women engaged in agriculture, fisheries and livestock, and other agro-based rural industries (self-, wage and non-wage employment) % increase in people with disabilities engaged in income-generating activities	ST/MT	<i>(Income generation for women)</i> In line with PRSP Policy Matrices 8 4 5, 15, and of PoA under AoIs # 1.1 to 1.7 - Continue strengthening women's access to extension services, agricultural inputs, as well as training on crop and non crop agriculture and existing technologies - Train extension workers on the involvement and integration of women - Strengthen participation in new agricultural projects' design	PRSP progress reports Reports of responsible ministries and agencies Training materials, Awareness materials Reports on NGOs activities (ADAB, NGOAB)	MoWCA MoLGRDC/RDCD MOA/ DAM, DAE MoFL BRDB BB, PKSF, NCBs Women's chamber of commerce MoSW National Foundation for the Development of the Disabled Bangladesh National Social Welfare Council	Continued commitment to promote women's empowerment Continued commitment to support integration of disabled people in mainstream economic activities
		Input indicators % of rural women with access to official extension services # of rural women benefiting from specialized vocational training programs # of women benefiting from rural / government and NGOs' micro-credit programs	ST/MT	Expand marketing facilities for agricultural products sold by women	HH surveys, community assessments using gender disaggregated data	MoLE	
		Volume and individual size of micro-credit/banks loans to women % increase in area of <i>Khas</i> land distributed to rural women (female heads,	MT/LT	Provide women with specific training on new non food grain products and technologies, including agro-processing and post-harvest technologies;	Reports of Financial Institutions	Voluntary Organizations /NGOs Private sector Development Partners	
			Cont.	In line with PRSP- Fishery sub-sector roadmap (2006) - Develop women-friendly technologies and extension methods and materials; - Target and train groups of poor women in aquaculture development - Provide alternative income			

		widows and separated) # of beneficiaries under various women-targeted programs # of people with disabilities participating in Rehabilitation Programs/Vocational Training Programs # of disabled people benefiting from interest-free microcredit	ST/MT ST/MT MT/LT ST/MT / Cont.	opportunities for fishing households, especially for women • <i>As part of PRSP Livestock Subsector Roadmap 2006</i> strengthen women-focused interventions • <i>Ensure effective targeting of women in implementing POA for Aol#2. 6</i> <i>In line with PRSP Matrices 9 16</i> • Expand coverage and strengthen effectiveness of micro credit/training programs for poor women • Strengthen access of VGD graduates to NGO-based income generating activities (IGAs) • Deepen ultra-poverty outreach of NGO-based micro-credit programs • Strengthen integration of micro-credit provisions with non financial services • Review lending policy of banks and MFIs towards women • Increase size of loans (from micro to small and medium sized) to women entrepreneurs • Scale-up/strengthen training programs for women entrepreneurs <i>In line with PRSP Matrix 16</i> • Distribute <i>khas</i> land to female headed households • Expand community based social and other support services to working women			
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			ST/MT	to ease their family care burden <i>(Income-generation activities for disabled people)</i> <i>In line with MoSW medium term plan</i> • Expand efforts to identify employment opportunities for disabled people in farm and non-farm work through rehabilitation and resource centres • Continue and expand coverage of interest free/low-cost lending under Rehabilitation Programs • Provide and strengthen vocational training • Strengthen financial, advisory and training support to voluntary organizations • Strengthen cooperation between government institutions/programs, NGOs/Voluntary Organizations to disabled people's access to income-generating opportunities <i>(Others)</i>			
			ST	• Assess constraints on women and disabled people's participation in agricultural and rural activities and identify actions to remove them			
2.6. Promotion of agro-based/agro-processing and micro/small rural industries	• Increased growth of agro-based/agro-processing and MSMEs	<i>Target/Output Indicators:</i> # of agro-based/agro-processing units # of micro and small rural enterprises	ST/MT	<i>In line with Industrial/SME policies (2005)</i> • Ensure effective support to existing agro-based and agro-processing industries, including actions to reduce transaction costs	PRSP progress reports Reports of relevant	MoA, MoFL BADC MoWCA MoF MoI/SME cell MoLGRDC/	Fiscal incentives and structure/special treatments under various policy

		# of female-headed rural MSMEs Input Indicators % of credit allocated by Government/NGOs to agro-processing and rural micro/small businesses Number of agro-processing businesses/small rural enterprises availing of fiscal and other incentives Extent of business development services provision	ST/MT MT/LT Cont/ ST/MT ST/MT MT/LT	In line with Industrial Policy (2005), • Provide special incentives and other support measures to small and cottage industries, as per Industrial Policy 2005 • Expand and strengthen support and promotion efforts to backward rural areas • Ensure rural producers have access to land types for enterprise development Implement PoA under AoIs # 1.1, 1.6, 1.7 to: • Improve access of rural producers to adequate technologies through strengthening linkages between research and extensions • Develop physical infrastructure • Develop market research and effective market information (including market access) for agro-based products for domestic and international markets • Expand use of ICT • Strengthen market information and business development services for agro-processors and micro/small and women entrepreneurs • Strengthen value chain management among input providers, producers, traders, processors and service providers/ provide	ministries and other agencies BBS reports (Economic Census etc.) Financial institutions reports National Private Sector Survey of Enterprises Other sectoral surveys HH surveys/Participatory assessments Project /program documents	RD CD BSCIC PKSF Agribusiness-related associations The National Council for Industrial Development (NCID), Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry BB NCBs NGOs Private Sector Development Partners	documents are streamlined and rationalized Significant demand for local agro-based products Government policies and actions support leading private sector in agribusiness. Agro-based/ Agro-processing industries are given clear priority in rural development policies Agri/agro-business development well coordinated with SME/Industrial policies strategies SME policy favors small enterprises
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			Cont. MT/LT	training on value chain management • Promote/strengthen agri-business associations and cooperative-type of organizations (Others) • Introduce/expand agri-business/ Agro-processing in Vocational Education and Training programs • Explore the feasibility of introducing pilot credit/business insurance schemes for agro-entrepreneurs/processors and micro and small sized enterprises • Strengthen government/NGO collaboration in providing/scaling-up collateral free loans to MSMEs • Expand access of agro-based/agro-processing industries to commercial bank loans • Promote linkages between micro-enterprises/family-based//female headed businesses and SMEs			
2.7. Market – driven skill development	• People’s skills developed based on domestic and international market requirements	Target/ Output indicators Updated curriculum of TVET Number of New TVET	ST ST/MT	• Assess skill development needs based on domestic and international market demand In line with PRSP Matrix 14 • Review curriculum of agricultural education and training institutes in light of emerging skill requirement, • Review curriculum of all	PRSP Report Reports of relevant ministries and other agencies Institutional assessments	MoLE MoYS MoE BMET MoEWOE MoI/SME Cell, BSCIC-SCITI BITAC NPO	Commitment of Government to reform the vocational training system

			MT/LT	TVET providers requirements • Promote cooperation arrangements between NGOs, TVET providers and local employers in providing training/apprenticeship • Expand vocational training opportunities for disadvantaged people, especially women, including stipend program, training voucher programs • Decentralise TVET provision		Development Partners	
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NFP Objective 3: Adequate nutrition for all individuals, especially women and children

Outcome/Impact indicators

Low Birth Weight (Birth wt. <2.5 kg) – Target: reduced from 36% (2004) to 30% by 2010 and < 20% by 2015

Weight gain during pregnancy – Target: increased from 6.7 kg (2004) to 9-10 kg by 2010 and 11-12 kg by 2015

U-5 underweight (weight for age <-2SD) – Target: reduced from 51% (2000) to 38% by 2010 and 33% by 2015

U-5 stunting (height for age <-2SD) – Target: reduced from 49% (2000) to 37% by 2010 and 33% by 2015

U-5 wasting (Weight for height <-2SD) – Target: reduced from 12% (2000) to 10% by 2010 and 7% by 2015

Rural-urban difference in U-5 (PEM) – Target: reduced from 10-12% point (2000) to 7-8% points by 2010 and 5-6% points by 2015

Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED) (Body Mass Index (BMI) <18.5 kg/m²) in women (including adolescent girls) – Target: reduced from 45% (2000) to 20% by 2010 and <20% by 2015

Vitamin A deficiency among children and women – Target: reduced from 30% (2000) to 15% by 2010 and to <10% by 2015

Iodine deficiency in children (6-12 years) and women (15-44 years) – Target: reduced from 34-38% (2005) to 25% by 2010 and to <10% by 2015

Iron deficiency anaemia (IDA) – Target: in infants (6-11 months), reduced from 77% (2003) to 60% by 2010 and to 40% by 2015; in adolescent girls (13-19 years) from 30% (2003) to 25% by 2010 and <20% by 2015; in pregnant women from 46% (2003) to 35% by 2010 and to 25% by 2015

Anthropometric indicators: height and weight of under-5 children – Target: increased to at least 80% of WHO standards by 2015

Others:

Per capita calorie intake – Target: Increased from 2238 (BBS, 2006) to 2400 (kcal/person/day)(provisional) by 2015

Dietary energy supply (DES) from cereals (%) – Target: decreased from the current 70% to 60% by 2015

Prevalence of food contamination and food adulteration (physical, chemical, microbiological) (%)

Incidence of food-borne illnesses (number of cases reported)

Means of verification:

BBS Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES), Child Nutrition Surveys (CNS)

BBS/UNICEF Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys (MICS) Sample Vital Registration System (SVRS)

NIPORT/MoHFW Bangladesh Demographic and Health Surveys (BDHS)

NNP/MoHFW reports

BSCIC/IPHN/UNICEF/DU National IDD and USI Surveys (every 5 years)

IPH/WHO/ICDDR,B reports

BBS/UNICEF National Anaemia and Iron Deficiency Surveys

HKI/IPHN National Vitamin A Deficiency Surveys

HKI/IPHN Nutritional Surveillance Project (NSP) reports

INFS (DU) National Nutrition Surveys

Others: Quick school surveys; Progress reports on specific programs/projects

Long-term national plan for ensuring balanced food in building a healthy nation (NFP 3.1)							
Key areas of intervention	Targets	Indicators	Action Time frame	Actions	Means of verification	Responsible Actors	Assumptions
3.1. Long-term planning for balanced food	- Long term targets for physical growth established - Standard food intake established for different population groups - Integrated plan for attaining standard food intake targets established	<i>Target/Output Indicators</i> Consistent physical growth targets established Per capita calorie requirements for balanced nutrition for different age, gender and occupational groups determined RDA of energy and other nutrients for different population groups determined RDA of cereals and other foods for balanced nutrition for different population groups National food composition table produced Integrated plan to attain desired food intake targets prepared Dependable food balance sheet for Bangladesh Diet charts for balanced nutrition at low cost established	ST/MT	(Physical growth) - Develop a methodology for establishing long term targets for physical growth - Define long term targets for physical growth - Develop a dynamic tool/mechanism to ascertain per capita consumption of cereals for food planning (Standard food and nutrient intake) - Develop a proper methodology for determining RDA - Conduct research to - determine RDA for energy and other nutrients for balanced nutrition of different population groups with different body size, occupation and physiological states. - set standard intake of different foods according to physical, mental and intellectual need - Undertake comparative analysis with RDA of other countries, particularly the neighbouring ones	WHO - Child Growth Standards (2006) NNP - Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) reports National RDA documents (to be developed and finalized) HKI/IPHN Nutritional Surveillance Project (NSP) reports	MoHFW/WHO FPMU (MoFDM)/WFP MoA (DAE) MoFL MoHFW (Bureau of Health Education; HNPS) BNNC BBS/FAO HKI/IPHN Research organizations (IFST, ICDDR,B) Academic institutions (INFS) FAO/NFPCSP/ Development partners	Long term commitment to align physical growth of Bangladeshi population with international standards Commitment to link food security planning to long term targets for physical and intellectual growth
			Cont.	Develop/update national food			

			ST/MT	composition tables with special reference to indigenous foods • Update regularly the Bangladesh food balance sheet • Monitor impacts of food-based nutrition interventions • Ensure growth monitoring and promotion (GMP) and nutritional surveillance • Identify the set and sequencing of priority interventions needed to reach physical and balanced nutrition targets, including availability and access related interventions • Link established targets for balanced nutrition with food security national and sectoral action plans • Monitor changes in food supply in relation to long term changes in food demands and long term physical growth and targets for balanced nutrition			
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Supply of sufficient nutritious food for vulnerable groups (NFP 3.2)							
Key areas of intervention	Targets	Indicators	Action Time frame	Actions	Means of verification	Responsible Actors	Assumptions
3.2. Balanced and nutritious food at minimal costs for vulnerable groups	- Increased availability through local production of low cost items for balanced nutrition - Poor, distressed and vulnerable women and children (including those from <i>monga</i> areas) effectively covered by food based nutrition programs and GMP	Target/Output Indicators Availability of a variety of low-cost foods Coverage of the poor, distressed and vulnerable women and children by food based nutrition programs Input indicators See Input indicators under PoAAoI# 1.4, 2.2 and 2.4 And PoA AoI #2.5 Low-cost diet chart from local ingredients for balanced food (see PoA AoI#3.1, 3.3)	See timeframes under relevant AoIs	- Implement PoA AoI # 2.2: <i>Emergency Food Distribution from Public Stocks and AoI # 2. 4: Food- based targeted programs for food security</i> - Implement PoA under AoI # 1.4 (<i>Agricultural diversification</i>) - Monitor and evaluate impacts of food-based/safety net/nutrition intervention programs In line with DAE, MoA, Integrated Horticulture Development program - Mainstream nutrition education in sector programs (see AoI # 3.3)	BBS/DAE	BBS/DAE (MoA), MoFDM (Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation)	Commitment to improve access of poor and vulnerable people to nutritious food
			Cont.	- Increase vegetable and fruit production through home gardening, backyard gardening and through integrated horticulture development - Raise backyard poultry - Raise community fish ponds	HKI/IPHN - NSP reports BBS - Child Nutrition Survey (CNS) and Mother and Child Nutrition Survey (MCNS) reports HKI/IPHN NSP reports DAE Reports NIPORT - BDHS reports INFS diet charts BNNC documents DAE Crop Calendar BANHRDB documents NGO Nutrition	MoFL, MoEF, MoWCA, MoSW, MoLGRDC/, RDGD, MoF, MoHFW NGOs (e.g. HKI, BRAC) INFS IFST ICDDR,B BNNC BANHRDB (MoA) Development Partners (FAO, WFP, USAID)	

			See timeframes under relevant AoIs (Obj. 2) ST/MT	<i>In line with, MoWCA medium term plan and PRSP Matrix 9 and 16, and PoA AoI # 2.5</i> • Develop programs for destitute women, especially during <i>monga</i> period • Expand coverage and effectiveness of micro credit programs/training for poor women • Implement PoA under AoI # 3.3 for improved nutrition awareness among poor and vulnerable groups • Develop special nutrition programs for children of urban slums, rural ultra poor households and geographically vulnerable regions, especially <i>monga</i> areas , targeted to under-5 children • Develop/strengthen supplementary food programs for children 6 months to 5 yrs	reports on the ultra poor and <i>monga</i> areas (e.g. BRAC, HKI)		
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Balanced diet containing adequate micronutrients (NFP 3.3)							
Key areas of intervention	Targets	Indicators	Action Time frame	Actions	Means of verification	Responsible Actors	Assumptions
3.3 Nutrition education for dietary diversification	- Increased % of women educated in nutrition and primary health care activities through formal and non-formal education - Increased home gardening and backyard poultry raising activities by poor households	<i>Target/Output Indicators</i> % women made educated and aware of nutrition and primary health care activities through formal and non-formal education % of poor households rearing home gardening and backyard poultry Increased production/supply of a variety of foods by agriculture sector Increased availability of a variety of home garden produce for household consumption Dissemination of nutrition messages through electronic media	Cont. ST -ST/MT	<i>In line with MoHFW/NNP/NPAN and PRSP Matrix 8:</i> - Promote Food based dietary guidelines as health, nutrition and agriculture policy tool - Strengthen formal and non-formal nutrition education and behavior change communication (BCC) programs on balanced food and healthy child growth and hygienic and nutritionally sound cooking practices through mass media - Strengthen nutrition education modules and incorporate them into various education programs - Increase the coverage and strengthen Area Based Community Nutrition (ABCN) program under NNP in rural areas - Pilot ABCN activities in urban areas - Develop and disseminate user friendly nutrition relevant agricultural programs through mass media - Conduct demonstrations to mothers on	NNP reports INFS reports Bureau of Health Education (MoHFW) reports Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) BCC tools BANHRDB training manuals NIPORT training manuals MoA/DAE Reports Reports of relevant ministries and other agencies (MoE, MoPME MoInf)	MoHFW (Directorate of Health; Bureau of Health Education) NNP (HNPSP) Directorate of Family Planning Family Welfare Centers NIPORT LGIs MoA (BAN-HRDB) MoA (DAE)/ATIs MoE MoPME MoInfo	Increased demand and supply for nutritious foods Accessibility of a variety of foods

			MT/LT	supplementary food along with feeding of severely malnourished children • Expand nutrition counseling of newly wed couples • Scale up home gardening through women-centered community actions in at least 2/3rds households at union levels through training and better access to seeds, tools and materials • Scale up dietary diversification strategies up to upazila levels • Establish/promote school gardening programs throughout the country			
3.4. Food supplementation and fortification	• Increased coverage of vitamin A and iron-folate supplementation, and adequately iodized salt • Increased coverage of food items for fortification with important micronutrients, e.g. vitamin A, iron and zinc	<i>Target/Output Indicators</i> (Vitamin A) HH Coverage of vitamin A HH Coverage of iron-folate and zinc supplementation Household coverage with adequately iodized salt (≥ 15 ppm) increased from 52% in 2004/5 to 70% by 2010 and to >90% by 2015 # severely malnourished children	Cont.	<i>In line with National Fortification Alliance (NFA) and PRSP Matrix 17</i> • Continue preventive and curative vitamin A+ program • Continue VAC feeding to mothers within 6 weeks of delivery • Conduct regular Vitamin A surveys • Continue and increase coverage of iron-folate tablet distribution for adolescent girls and pregnant women and • Build in monitoring and evaluation components	HKI/IPHN Progress reports on home gardening and the National Vitamin A+ programs NFA Reports (fortification of oil with Vitamin A) BSCIC/IPHN/ UNICEF - IDD survey reports HKI/IPHN - Vitamin A survey report	MoP (BBS) MoHFW (IPHN), DGHS DGFP HNPSP (BSCIC) MoSCIT (IFST) MoFDM MoA MoE MoFL MoEF MoWCA MoLGRD MoI MoF Ministry of Law	Improved government control over salt factories and commitment to effectively implement of the Salt Law; Adequate price of iodized salt Commitment to mainstream fortification in agri-business/ agro-processing development strategies

		covered by supplementary feeding Input Indicators # of community-based fortification and supplementation programs Micronutrient supplements under HNPSP Operational Plan # of food processing units producing fortified food products (at least 1 flour mill for fortification of <i>atta</i> (whole wheat flour) in all divisional HQs) # of research projects on iodine deficiency in different locations # Number of training programs on salt iodization	ST/MT MT/LT ST/MT	ensure its compliance - Strengthen GoB/NGOs partnerships for VAD and other micronutrient problems - Activate the National Fortification Alliance (NFA) - Expand supplementary feeding through community based intervention programs - Activate “Sprinkles” production for mass consumption by U-2 children and pregnant women - Sensitize the National Salt Committee on CIDD program - Include IDD in the MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey) of BBS/UNICEF - Set up production units for fortification of <i>atta</i> (whole-wheat flour) and other processed food products in all divisional HQs In line with National Salt Law (BSCIC/MoI), - Conduct in-depth research on the cause of persistent iodine deficiency in pocket areas, e.g., interaction between iodine and selenium - Produce smaller packets of ½ kg or less	WFP Annual Reports BBS/UNICEF - National Anaemia and Iron Deficiency Survey HKI/IPHN - NSP NIPORT - BDHS INFS (DU) - National Nutrition Surveys (suggested years: 2007, 2015) HKI/IPHN - reports National IDD and USI surveys (every 5 years); Quick school surveys (every year); Minutes of the National Salt Committee meetings; Progress reports on the BSCIC Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (CIDD) project;	Private flour mill owners and food processors/ industries	Commitment to prioritize anaemia control in national development policyagenda and implementation Commitment to effectively implement PoA on agricultural diversification (AoI#1.4) Commitment to mainstream control of anaemia in national development policies
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				• Improve distribution and marketing channels of iodized salt in remote areas • Strengthen monitoring and supervision mechanisms of quality of salt iodization at the factory level • Plan for regular refresher training of factory owners, workers and supervisors • Undertake special cash program for the northern part of the country, especially in the pocket areas • Strengthen Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (CIDD) program through Universal Salt Iodization (USI) <i>In line with IPHN guidelines for anaemia prevention ad treatment,</i> • Conduct research on the higher prevalence of anaemia among the tribal population of CHT, particularly the adolescent girls • Strengthen iron-folate supplementation to adolescent girls, particularly newly weds, pregnant and lactating women	Progress of the mass campaign program on iodized salt NIPORT - BDHS report		
			ST/MT				
			MT/LT	• Popularize and strengthen home fortification program of complementary food with appropriate iron			

				and other micronutrient fortificants (e.g. 'Sprinkles') • Undertake food to food enrichment measures • Improve distribution channels of the antenatal clinics, particularly in rural areas • Strengthen the de-worming program; • Undertake national level integrated and complementary anaemia prevention and control programs			
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Safe drinking water and improved sanitation (NFP 3.4)

Key areas of intervention	Targets	Indicators	Action Time frame	Actions	Means of verification	Responsible Actors	Assumptions
3.5. Safe drinking water and improved sanitation	• Safe water and sanitation facilities available and accessible for all by 2010	Target/Output Indicators Increased coverage of safe water supply to 90% in rural area, 80% in urban area by 2010 Increase coverage of sanitary latrines in rural areas and urban slums (to 90% by 2010) Increase access to safe drinking water in arsenic affected areas (to 100% by 2010)	ST/MT	<i>In line with LGD medium term plan and PRSP Matrix 15 and 17:</i> • Raise public awareness regarding arsenic contaminated water, about alternative arsenic free safe water sources and mitigation options, • Install tube wells in all villages providing at least 1 tube well /10 households	Progress reports of: -National Policy for Water Supply and Sanitation 1998 Plan of Action -National Policy for Arsenic Mitigation 2004 Plan of Action -Govt. declaration to achieve 100% sanitation coverage for	MoLGDRRC MoHFW DPHE & WASA, Municipalities and local bodies Development Partners	Adequate funding of LGIs Sound assessment of rural and urban needs, given the pace of urbanization Commitment to address the specific needs of disabled people
		Input Indicators # of sanitary latrines	MT/LT	• Establish water sources and construction of water pipe lines in urban areas • Construct sanitary latrines for every household and every			

		Reduced incidence of food borne morbidity and mortality	MT/LT	programs for concerned officials of institutions (City Corporations, DoF, BSTI, IPH) • Invest in packing or packaging development and safe storage facilities • Establish coordinated mechanisms at all levels for implementing food safety regulations • Develop a food safety database to track evaluation of food-borne illnesses • Raise consumer awareness programs on safe food in relation to avian influenza and food adulteration (poultry, fish, vegetables, fruits) • Enforce appropriate mechanisms to control food adulteration (food production and in the marketing chain) • Strengthen food testing laboratories at Department of Food, BSTI, IFST and IPH with adequate equipment and skilled manpower as per international standards • Increase food testing laboratory facilities at divisional and district HQs • Establish surveillance systems for food-borne illnesses, food contamination and food adulteration	DoF annual reports Periodic/ Annual reports of relevant organizations CAB reports IPH/ICDDR,B reports	municipalities) Local Government Institutions MoSICT (AEC) MoFDM (DoF) MoI BCSIR INFS Academic institutions NGOs (e.g. CAB) Development Partners	issues Commitment to enforce the Consumers' Protection Act and Pure Food Ordinance
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			ST/MT	<i>In line with PRSP Matrix 15, PoA of NAP (2004), APB (2006) and Fisheries Sub-sector Road map (2006-2015)</i> • Improve IEC/BCC programs on food safety and safe food practices • Pass and enact the Consumers' Protection Act • Initiate awareness raising campaigns on food safety issues			
			MT/LT	• Institutionalize safe and hygienic street food vending systems and all food establishments in urban areas • Orient extension workers on quality aspects of food products • Prepare national guidelines for implementing the provisions of FAO's code of conduct for responsible fisheries • Implement food safety and quality operations at all stages of food production, processing and service (from farm to table) using GHP, GMP and HACCP operations in phases, including arsenic contamination			

Adequate health status (NFP 3.6)							
Key areas of Intervention	Targets	Indicators	Action Time frame	Actions	Means of verification	Responsible Actors	Assumptions
3.7. Women and Children Health	(Outcome Targets) - Improved child and mother health - Improved adolescents' and women's general health - Reduced neonatal (NMR), infant (IMR), child (CMR) and maternal (MMR) mortality rates/1000 live births - Reduced total fertility rate (TFR) Output targets - Increased PHC coverage - Increased ANC coverage - Increase EPI coverage - Increased skilled attendance at birth - Improved access to health services	Outcome indicators NMR, IMR, CMR, MMR Target/Output indicators: ANC coverage % of children covered by IMCI/CDD/ESP % of births attended by skilled personnel Coverage of HIV/AIDS control program Coverage of EPI/PHC coverage # of doctors and paramedics and hospital beds per 10 000 population in rural and urban areas	Cont.	<i>In line with MoHFW Medium Term Plan and in line with PRSP Matrix 15 and 17,</i> - Continue/strengthen Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI) - Continue/strengthen control of acute respiratory infection (ARI), and prevention and control of cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases programs	NIPORT - BDHS BBS/MoP Sample Vital Registration System reports NNP progress reports ICDDR,B Reports BIRDEM annual reports National HIV/AIDS program reports BBS - Child Nutrition Surveys HKI/IPHN - NSP reports INFS (DU) - National Nutrition Surveys Government directives/circulars	NIPORT/MoHFW HNPS/P MoHFW BBS/MoP MoWCA City Corporations and selected municipalities Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Directorate of Women Affairs Directorate of Health Directorate of Family Planning Family Welfare Centres Directorate of Nursing ICDDR,B BIRDEM MoP (BBS) MoFDM, MoHFW (BNNC), MoA, MoFL, MoEF, MoWCA, MoSW, MoLGRDC/LGD, MoF,	Adequate funding of health sector, in line with PRSP Social receptiveness to the need for behavioral changes Commitment to further target the specific needs of women and children in all health initiatives
			ST/MT	- Increase coverage of health care services including PHC (primary health care) and low-cost health care facilities for urban poor - Take measures to facilitate access to health care facilities, particularly for women and children. - Provide training to doctors, nurses and paramedics - Provide appropriate reproductive health services to female adolescents and young women - Enhance women's knowledge of hospital services and facilities and provide confidentiality and			

			MT/LT	security to ensure the safe and effective delivery services • Strengthen counseling services and other awareness-raising actions to promote healthy lifestyles and appropriate behavior modification strategies • Effectively implement National HIV/AIDS control program • Implement the reproductive health programs • Strengthen targeting of women and children in HNPS, especially targeting under-5 children • Ensure Essential Services Delivery, diarrhoeal disease control (CDD), Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI); • Effectively implement the non-communicable disease control and public health intervention operational plan • Improve screening for early detection of major non-communicable diseases and some common cancers (cervix, oral, breast, lungs) • Develop Government/NGO partnerships in the field of health and nutrition • Develop “pro-poor “		Academic institutions, NGOs Development Partners	
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			See timeframes under relevant AoIs	national drug policy <i>In line PRSP Policy Matrix 8 and 6,</i> Implement PoA under Aol#2.2 to strengthen effectiveness of VGF and all other food-based safety net programs			
Promotion and protection of breast-feeding and complementary feeding							
Key areas of Intervention	Targets	Indicators	Action Time frame	Actions	Means of verification	Responsible Actors	Assumptions
3.8. Promotion and protection of breast-feeding and complementary feeding	- Strengthened exclusive breastfeeding practices - Expanded practice of breastfeeding - Ensured safe and nutritious complementary feeding - Strengthened baby-friendly hospital initiative - Increased maternity leave, particularly post-partum - BMS Codes respected by the breast milk substitutes marketers	<i>Target/Output indicators</i> % newborn put on breast within 1 hour of birth increased from 24% to at least 50% by 2010 % infants exclusively breastfed for 6 months after birth increased from 42% to at least 60% by 2010 % infants given complementary feeding at 6 months of age % young children continuously breastfed until the age of 2 years along with complementary feeding Recipe for safe and nutritious complementary food developed and produced from locally available ingredients # hospitals and family	Cont.	<i>In line with NPAN (1997) and National Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding in Bangladesh (2006),</i> - Promote exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months, with initiation of breastfeeding within 1 hour of birth - Promote appropriate complementary feeding initiated at 6 months while continuing breastfeeding up to 2 years - Activate standard international regulations on commercial breast milk substitutes (BMS Codes) - Develop comprehensive education materials on promotion of breast feeding and safe infant and young child feeding practices for the community	NIPORT - BDHS Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation (BBF) reports BBS/MoP Sample Vital Registration System (SVRS) BBS - Child Nutrition Surveys (CNS) and Mother and Child Nutrition Surveys (CMNS) HKI/IPHN - NSP reports BBS - Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)	MoHFW MoWCA MoEd MoSW MoLaw MoC MoInfo Research institutions and academia BBF and other NGOs	Social receptiveness to proposed changes in breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding practices Government and private sector response towards institutionalization of ideal complementary feeding Commitment to further target the specific needs of the newborn and young children and their mothers

		welfare centres with 'baby-friendly initiative' # working places having baby care centres/crèches Length of maternity leave, pre- and post-partum	ST-ST/MT	• Develop recipes for safe and nutritious complementary food from locally available, cheap ingredients • Institutionalize "Safe and nutritious complementary feeding" from the age of 6 months at household and community level • Establish day care centers/crèches for working mothers at their working places • Extend maternity leave to at least 5 months (post-partum) • Expand the number of hospitals/clinics/family welfare centers having baby-friendly initiatives • Strengthen the Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation (BBF) and the BNNC	NNP - Growth Monitoring and Promotion Reports		
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Policy Review: List of documents reviewed

AGRICULTURAL/RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

NFP/PRSP

1. National Food Policy 2006, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. August 2006
2. Comprehensive Food Security Policy for Bangladesh, 2000
3. *"Unlocking the Potential, National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction"*, General Economic Division, Planning Commission, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh October 2005 (PRSP1)

PRSP 1 - Policy Matrices

Policy Matrix 1:	Macroeconomic Stability and Pro-poor Economic Growth
Policy Matrix 2:	Promoting Trade and Remittances
Policy Matrix 3:	Private Sector and Small & Medium Enterprise Development
Policy Matrix 4:	Agricultural Growth towards Poverty Reduction
Policy Matrix 5:	Rural Non-farm Activities
Policy Matrix 6:	Safety Net for Poverty Reduction
Policy Matrix 7:	Comprehensive Disaster management towards Poverty Reduction and Growth
Policy Matrix 8:	Food Security
Policy Matrix 9:	Scaling up Poverty Reduction through Micro Credit
Policy Matrix 10:	Water Resources Development & Management
Policy Matrix 11:	Infrastructure Development and reforms
Policy Matrix 12:	Tourism for Poverty Reduction
Policy Matrix 13:	Development of ICT and Bio-technology Policy
Policy Matrix 14:	Education Sector
Policy Matrix 15:	Health, Population, Nutrition, Water and sanitation and Food Safety Sector
Policy Matrix 16:	Women's Advancement and Rights
Policy Matrix 17:	Children Advancement and Rights
Policy Matrix 18:	Good Governance
Policy Matrix 19:	Environment and Sustainable Development

4. National Agriculture Policy 1999, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, April 1999.
5. Bangladesh Plan of Action on National Agriculture Policy 2004, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; United Nations Development Program and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, February 2004, Dhaka.
6. Action Plan for Implementing the Actionable Policy Brief in Bangladesh, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh July 2006.
7. New Agricultural Extension Policy. Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. 1996, Dhaka
8. DAE Strategic Plan, 1999-2002, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka.

9. National Seed Policy, 1993, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
10. National Fisheries Policy, 1998, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
11. National Livestock Policy, 1992, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
12. Fisheries Sub-sector Roadmap for Implementing PRSP Policy Recommendations 2006-2015, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, August 2006.
13. Livestock Sub-sector Roadmap for Implementing PRSP Policy recommendations 2006-2015, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, March 2006.
14. National Rural Development Policy, 2001 (in Bengali), Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
15. National Cooperative Policy, 1989, 2001, Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

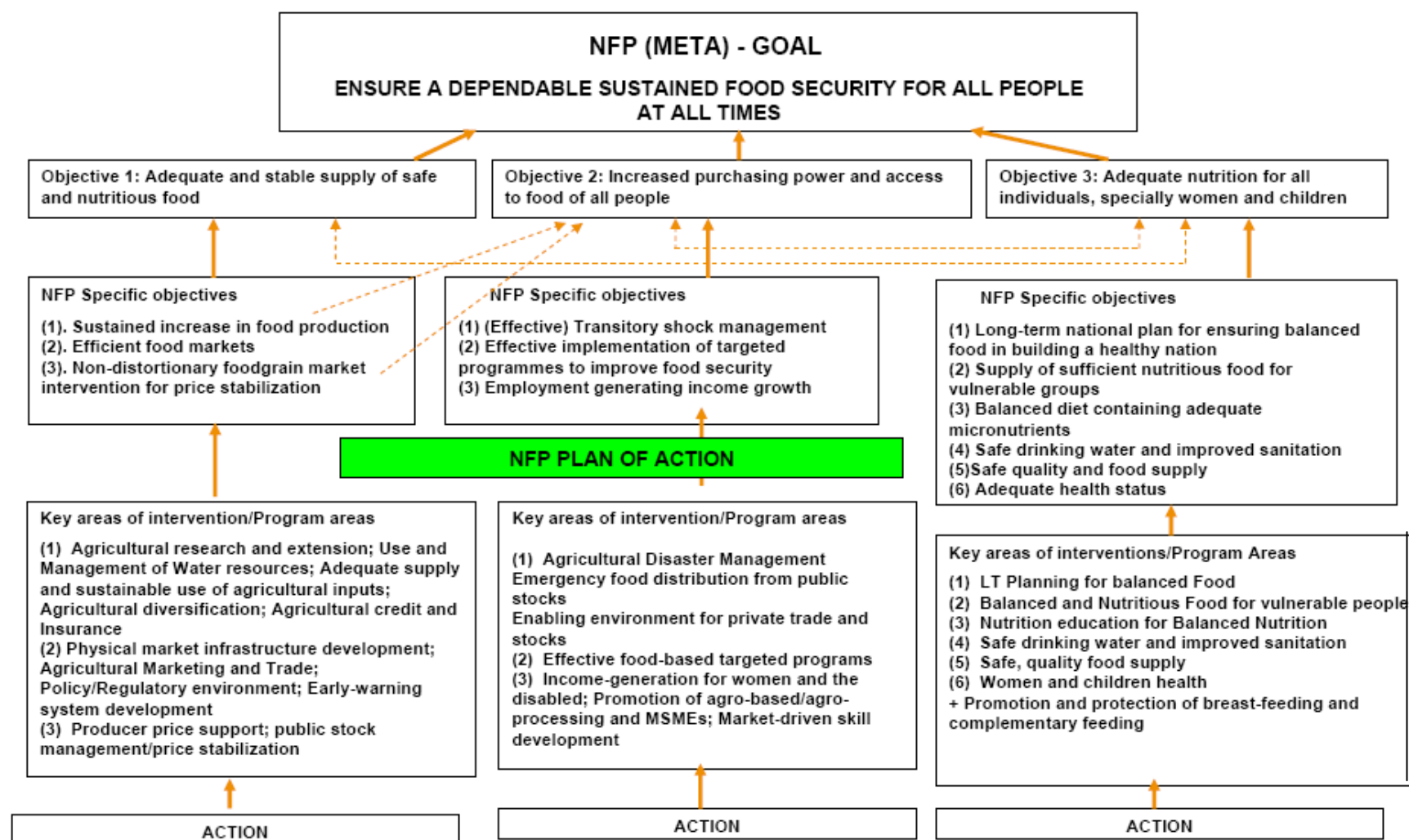
NUTRITION/HEALTH POLICIES

16. Bangladesh National Food and Nutrition Policy 1997, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Dhaka.
17. Bangladesh National Plan of Action for Nutrition, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, in collaboration with Bangladesh National Nutrition Council, 1997
18. National Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding in Bangladesh, 2006
19. Bangladesh Pure Food Rules, 1967
20. Bangladesh Pure Food (Amendment) Act, 2005
21. The Essential Commodity Act, 1964
22. The Bangladesh Fish Protection and Conservation Act, 1950 (amended in 1995)
23. The Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution Ordinance, 1985
24. The Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (Amendment) Act, 2003
25. Bangladesh Bio-safety Guidelines, 2000
26. Bangladesh Biosafety Act, 2004
27. Bangladesh Quality Support Program, 2006
28. National Health Policy, 2000 (in Bengali), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

OTHER POLICIES

29. National Land Use Policy, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. 2005 Ministry of Industries, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
30. Industrial Policy 2005. Ministry of Industries, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
31. Policy Strategies for Development of SMEs, 2005
32. National Water Policy 2000, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
33. National Women Development Policy, 1997 in (Bengali), Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
34. National Policy for Advancement of Women, 2004 in (Bengali), Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, draft.
35. Environment Policy and Implementation Program, 1992 (in Bengali), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
36. National Policy for Arsenic Mitigation, 2004
37. National Integrated Pest management Policy, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, January 2002
38. National Plan for Disaster Management (2007-2015), MoFDM

Appendix 2 -NFP OBJECTIVES AND THE PoA – OVERVIEW CHART



ANNEX: The National Food Policy (2006)

- (i) NFP (2006), English version**
- (ii) NFP (2006), Bangla version**



National Food Policy 2006

**Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
14 August, 2006**

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Section A: Preamble

Food is a basic human need and plays a crucial role in the agro-based economy of Bangladesh, where a large proportion of the income of the population is allocated to food. The first and foremost responsibility of the State is to ensure an uninterrupted supply of food to all people at all time. According to the Article-15(a) of the constitution of Bangladesh, it shall be a fundamental responsibility of the State to secure its citizens to the provision of basic necessities of food. As per Government's Allocation of Business, it is the duty of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management to establish a dependable food security system for the nation. The Government of Bangladesh is firmly committed to achieve food security for all, defined at the 1996 World Food Summit as: access by all people at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life. This provision is also reflected in all the development plans of the Government.

Bangladesh is also a signatory of GATT Uruguay Round Agreement in 1994 at which, among other issues, agricultural trade liberalisations was agreed. Following the recommendation of the Bangladesh Development Forum, the process of consolidating the country's food security programme at a larger scale was started in 2000 through a task force document entitled "A Comprehensive Food Security Policy for Bangladesh". Meanwhile a high priority was given to further strengthen and harmonise government's efforts to ensure food security for all. It was achieved through revisiting all existing related policies and strategies. The goal of the first national food policy, which was adopted in 1988, was to achieve food security for all people by increasing food production and attaining self-sufficiency. However, many important aspects of food security remained unattended in the food policy of 1988 which was based on availability of foodgrain alone. The present food policy was developed in the light of the recently adopted Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and also in a broader perspective according to the definition of food security as adopted in the World Food Summit.

Food scenario in Bangladesh has undergone major changes over the last decade, moving from a system involving large-scale government interventions in rice and wheat markets to a more market-oriented system, with public food distribution system increasingly targeted to those households which are mostly in need. Moreover, as foodgrain production has increased and foodgrain availability at the national level has been successfully maintained at a satisfactory level, the focus of government policy has gradually expanded to include major efforts at improving nutrition status of children and women and nutrition education. Given the subsistence nature of the rural economy, food insecurity is directly related to basic food production, increase in population and decrease in cultivable land. With the current level of poverty, these factors create a complex environment for national food security.

Ensuring food security for all is one of the major challenges that Bangladesh faces today. Despite significant achievements in foodgrain production and food availability, food security at national, household and individual levels remains a matter of major concern for the Government. Since Independence, Bangladesh has made significant progress in increasing domestic production of foodgrains. This, to a large extent, helped in overcoming the constraints of insufficient national food

availability. Adequate food availability, though admittedly necessary, is not a sufficient condition for ensuring national food security. Ensuring food security for all requires a major effort at enhancing access to food and subsequent utilisation of food by the poor and distressed households.

The Government of Bangladesh, in accordance with the World Food Summit Declaration of 1996 and the Millennium Development Goals (2000) has set its target at reducing the number of poor people to half by the year 2015. Achieving this target will require addressing all aspects of food security: (i) greater efficiency of domestic agriculture and enhanced availability of food; (ii) assistance to attain increased food access by the food insecure; (iii) sustained increase in the incomes of the poor and the distressed to enhance their access to food; (iv) adequate supply of safe food; and (v) appropriate programmes to reduce malnutrition through increased effectiveness and proper utilisation of the consumed food. To ensure overall food security, the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management will carry out its own programmes; in addition, it will ensure extending all out support to all concerned ministries and agencies in implementing their own food-security related strategies and programmes. In this way, attaining food security will be possible through a coordinated implementation of the programmes of all concerned ministries and agencies (as set in the national plan of action for food security framed in association with all concerned ministries in the light of the approved national food policy).

Section-B: Goal and Objectives of the National Food Policy

The goal of the food policy is to ensure a dependable food security system for all people of the country at all times.

The objectives of the food policy are:

Objective-1: to ensure adequate and stable supply of safe and nutritious food;

Objective-2: to enhance purchasing power of the people for increased food accessibility; and

Objective-3: to ensure adequate nutrition for all (especially women and children).

Section-C: Conceptual Framework of the Comprehensive Food Security System

The declared goal of food policy is to ensure dependable food security for all people at all times. Achieving this goal will require substantial improvement in the prevailing food security system in the country. Food policy in the Bangladesh context is a multi-sectoral issue involving several ministries and agencies, who through their respective programmes and strategies, aim to achieve the common goal of establishing a dependable food security system.

Formulation of an effective food policy to improve food security is a matter of utmost importance for Bangladesh. This issue is also a matter of paramount concern for those responsible for the nation's welfare. Food security can be broadly defined as existing when all people at all times have availability of and access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active, healthy and productive life. One essential element of food security is adequate food availability at national level, which is often equated with national food security. Another essential element is the access to adequate food at household and individual levels. The third essential element of food security is the biological utilisation of food, which depends on a number of other factors, such as the health and sanitation environment, and household or public capacity to care for the vulnerable members of the society. Thus, food security depends on many

interlinked factors, all of which should receive adequate and simultaneous attention. There is also a definite interdependency among these factors, which demands a delicate balance among all issues related to comprehensive food security.

In the Bangladesh context, domestic food production, public and private stocking and international trade determine food availability at the national level. With the liberalisation of trade, global availability and prices of food are of increasing importance for ensuring national food security. Availability of food at household level depends on the household's capacity to produce or acquire food, household food stockholding and availability of food at local markets. However, all these are functions of market structure, seasonal variation in domestic food production, efficiency of the market and the public food distribution system.

Household's access to food depends on household income, assets, remittances, gifts, borrowing, income transfers and food aid. Increased income of household can improve household food security in terms of improved access to food. In addition, expanded asset bases reduce the vulnerability of households to short-term disruptions in income flows and help prevent degradation of household food security in times of adversity. Increased food prices also results in transitory food insecurity of the low-income households by lowering their real income and, hence, eroding their purchasing power.

Increased food availability and access to food may mitigate hunger, but not necessarily malnutrition. One major reason for persistent malnutrition lies in the complex interaction between food intake and illness, which affects biological food utilisation, and negatively influences the overall health and caring environment. Access to safe and nutritious food is essential for improvement of nutrition status. This may be offset by poor access to non-food factors, such as health care services, education, sanitation, and safe water or ineffective delivery or poor administrative set-up for these services. In order to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable individuals, it is essential that these improved health and sanitation facilities are made available at the community level, and be effectively brought to children, women and other vulnerable household members. This may be achieved by ensuring proper caring practices at intra-household level, including equitable food distribution within the household without any gender bias.

Section-D: Objectives, Strategies, Instruments and Activities of the National Food Policy

Objective – 1: Adequate and stable supply of safe and nutritious food

One of the important aspects of food security is to ensure sustained availability of food to meet all people's demand at prices commensurate with their income. Food security is then achieved when all people can buy adequate good quality food sufficient for maintenance of an active and healthy life. It is essential to achieve an overall development of agriculture to ensure production and marketing of foodgrains as well as non-foodgrain items, to create employment opportunities and increase real income of the poor, ultimately to improve their nutritional status.

Strategy-1.1: Efficient and sustainable increase in food production

A key aspect of long-term food security is promotion of efficient and sustained domestic food production. To achieve this, increased food production and agriculture diversification is needed through developed modern agricultural system. For agricultural development and extension, the best and most efficient use of available land, agricultural inputs and efficient use of water resources for irrigation and for production of livestock, fish and other non-crop items including fruits, the Government, in addition to adopting improved agricultural technologies, supporting appropriate research and giving out agricultural loans, will also support the following strategic activities:

1.1.1. Agricultural development and extension services

- i. provide adequate funding for adaptive agricultural research and strengthen agricultural extension services to enable the development and dissemination of appropriate technology;
- ii. develop a long-term food production plan considering regional land productivity, crop suitability and other agro-ecological characteristics;
- iii. invest in roads, canals, irrigation, rural electrification and market infrastructure needed to promote growth in food production; and
- iv. develop required human resources for agricultural research and extension and their effective utilisation in disseminating appropriate production technology.

1.1.2. Efficient use of water resources

Irrigation is the leading input for increasing yield and production of foodgrains and other crops. A well-planned irrigation management programme is, therefore, essential for gradual increase of cropping intensity as well as yields in order to ensure efficient use of water resources the Government will undertake the following steps:

- i. ensure reduction of the yield gap within irrigated areas, and encourage farmers to apply supplementary irrigation with a view to increase cropping intensity and yield on a sustainable basis;
- ii. encourage use of surface and groundwater for irrigation through improved irrigation infrastructure by both public and private sectors;
- iii. ensure improved delivery and efficient use of safe irrigation water for crop cultivation;
- iv. establish an area based irrigation management system using participatory approach;
- v. develop a water conservation strategy and undertake measures for use of conserved water for supplementary irrigation purposes and to reduce dependency on sub-surface water;
- vi. ensure use of surface water for irrigation by public and private sector without affecting the fisheries resources;
- vii. ensure uninterrupted supply of power for pumps during irrigation for agricultural production;
- viii. encourage development and application of irrigation technologies for water conservation and use at a larger scale; and

- ix. undertake supplementary steps to enhance appropriate irrigation technologies and address drought situation in rain-dependent areas.

1.1.3. Availability of agricultural inputs and their efficient use

Food production is largely dependent on timely availability of agricultural inputs at acceptable prices and their efficient uses. In order to ensure availability and efficient use of agricultural inputs, the Government will carry out the following activities:

- i. ensure adequate, balanced and timely supplies of fertiliser and other inputs in crop and fish production to prevent input shortages and sharp increases in input prices;
- ii. develop a consistent price policy to ensure balanced use of fertiliser;
- iii. encourage private investment in seed sector;
- iv. ensure selective liberalisation of seed import;
- v. frame regulations for ensuring quality of seeds, agro-chemicals and fertilisers and ensure their strict compliance;
- vi. arrange training of farmers, fish cultivators and traders on the use of fertiliser and agro-chemicals to limit the content of trace elements in their produce;
- vii. ensure increased fish production through limited use of insecticides in the crop fields;
- viii. expansion of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Crop Management (ICM) programmes for increased food production; and
- ix. strengthen IPM to achieve pest control by natural means and ensure introduction of appropriate and environment-friendly agriculture and conservation system through use of bio-fertilisers.

1.1.4. Agriculture diversification and improved agricultural technology

In addition to increased domestic foodgrain production as a primary factor determining food availability, increased production of non-cereal crops and non-crop food through agricultural diversification, improved agricultural technology, research/extension and better post-harvest technique is also important. The Government policy in this regard will be to:

- i. increase the use of modern technologies at the field level for non-cereal crops significantly, especially for pulses, oilseeds, spices and vegetables;
- ii. undertake appropriate measures to prevent excessive losses and wastage during seasonal increase in market supply of fruits, vegetables and spices, production of which is dependent on adoption of seed varieties and harvesting technologies;
- iii. identify and promote flood and drought-resistant seed varieties and appropriate technologies to minimise salinity in rain-fed areas for increased food security of people living in disaster-prone areas;
- iv. ascertain the health effects of the recently developed genetically modified (GM) food; and
- v. emphasise on biotechnological research for development of new varieties of crops and improved varieties of poultry birds through coordinated institutional cooperation.

1.1.4.1. Increased production of non-cereal crops (vegetables, oilseeds, pulses and fruits)

In view of slow growth rate in the non-cereal, the Government will pursue the following initiatives for rapid expansion of both productivity and production growth and to stabilise the price levels of non-cereal crops:

- i. give high priority to agronomic and extension research for these non-cereal crops;
- ii. rapidly introduce modern varieties along with a package of appropriate management practices supported by strong extension and input services;
- iii. develop organised marketing facilities, processing, preservation techniques, storage etc. to boost the production of non-cereal crops;
- iv. provide investment assistance and training to farmers for extended use of modern post-harvest technologies for seasonal fruits, vegetables, fish and other animal products; and
- v. ascertain short and long-term health effects of GM foods through promotion of biotechnological research.

1.1.4.2. Development of non-crop agriculture (poultry, livestock and fisheries)

Livestock is the source of milk, meat and egg for consumption of balanced food. Increasing production in livestock and fisheries sub-sectors can be considered as one of the important frontiers towards augmenting overall food production in the country.

Considering the importance of these two sub-sectors in the country's food security and foreign exchange earning, the government will encourage increased production and development through undertaking the following activities:

- i. improvement of quality and productivity of fisheries and livestock by strengthening research, training and extension services;
- ii. ensure development of animal health care services, particularly for the control of parasitic and infectious diseases through wider coverage vaccination of poultry and cattle heads and take necessary measures for conservation of indigenous species;
- iii. support to development of feed and fodder industry for fisheries and livestock;
- iv. investment assistance for expansion of marketing network for production technologies, input supply, improved technology for preservation and marketing of fisheries and livestock products;
- v. support development and expansion of technologies for the resource-less and poor by involving non-governmental organisations at a larger scale;
- vi. ensure expansion of integrated rice-fish production system in the rice fields;
- vii. promote environment friendly and scientific culture, both at production and processing levels, of shrimp of improved quality and quantity; and
- viii. explore appropriate techniques and associated extension services for sustainable harvest of marine fisheries resources.

1.1.5. Agricultural credit

Agricultural credit is essential to ensure increased productivity, intensification and diversification in agriculture through adoption of resource-intensive modern technologies for achieving enhanced level of domestic production.

In order to increase availability of and access to agricultural credit for the farmers, alongside other required initiatives the Government will undertake the following steps:

- i. introduce appropriate institutional system of providing credit to ensure the availability of agricultural credit in time; and
- ii. ensure improved access to credit to all agricultural farmers (including landless, marginal and small farmers) by bringing in poor farmers in agricultural production related micro-credit schemes to increase productivity of their farming systems and to enhance their household food security.

Strategy-1.2: Efficient food markets

For satisfactory performance of food market, the market structure should keep pace with changes in demand, production patterns, technology and the global trade environment. The efficiency of the market structure can be judged if it performs the tasks assigned to it at minimum cost and whether it is responsive to changes in market environment in relation to the delicate relationship between demand and supply. Despite the presence of a large number of buyers and sellers in the food market and given the dispersal of small producers over vast areas with underdeveloped transportation and communication, formal or informal restrictions on movement, faulty grading etc. weaken the competitive environment. Improvements in market environment require development of market infrastructure, unrestricted storage and movement and in relevant cases provisioning of institutional support and incentives for private trade. Development of efficient food market to achieve food security goal will include non-discriminatory credit, development and enforcement of quality standards, trade-supportive legal and regulatory environment and selective non-distortionary public food market intervention for price stabilisation.

1.2.1. Development of market infrastructure

Market infrastructure of appropriate quality and reliability is the key determinant for sustainable growth of the overall economy and trade. To help the private sector food trade to contribute significantly to enhance the food security of the population, long-term investment in storage, transportation and handling infrastructure are necessary. Marketing facilities such as appropriate selling spaces, auctioning rooms, weighing equipment are also instrumental in improving food market performance.

To develop and maintain infrastructure for efficient food market, the Government will carry out the following activities:

- i. expand infrastructural facilities for cleaning, grading, sorting and processing facilities involving appropriate technologies at different stages of post-harvest activities and product marketing to improve post-harvest facilities and limit post-harvest losses;

- ii. encourage and promote formation of marketing cooperative-like societies to develop storage and processing facilities at various level of marketing of farm products;
- iii. provide enhanced amount of capital and credit assistance to entrepreneurs in establishing food processing and preservation structures in appropriate places;
- iv. support development of primary and secondary markets in appropriate places; and
- v. ensure development of farm to market link road and other supportive services.

1.2.2 Encouragement to private sector food trade

The private sector food trade involves hundreds of thousands of millers, wholesalers, and small traders who buy, process, store, transport and sell food throughout the country. Modern milling, polishing, sorting, cleaning and packaging techniques need to be promoted to cater both the domestic and export market demand.

To promote private sector food trade, Government will accomplish the following activities:

- i. provide adequate incentives for private food marketing, processing, sorting and stock maintenance;
- ii. manage private sector food imports through adjustment of tariff rates and extending other administrative support so as to encourage imports when needed and avoid excessive imports that might have negative impact on domestic production; and
- iii. encourage export of agricultural products in times of surplus-production and excessive market supply.

1.2.2.1 Development of private sector foodgrain storage and movement system

The storage facilities presently available in the private sector are not suitable for long-term storage of grain and other food commodities. For this, construction of warehouses of scientific standard specifications is necessary. The Government policy should be to encourage the process by amending and simplifying banking regulations on credit facilities to private sector entrepreneurs for construction of appropriate commodity specific warehouses, cold storages and acquiring transportation vehicles for freightage.

To promote development of storage and movement system of food commodities in the private sector, the Government will:

- i. allow unrestricted movement of foodstuff in the country; and
- ii. ensure credit facilities to develop storage structures in appropriate places.

1.2.2.2 Strengthening of liberal credit for food trade

Increased participation and reducing barriers to the availability of credit to the new entrants is an important precondition for development of an improved market structure. Strengthening of liberal credit delivery system for food trade would eliminate many of the marketing problems typically associated with high level of production.

To ensure availability of credit for food trade, the Government of Bangladesh will:

- i. strengthen liberal credit delivery system with advisory and monitoring services; and
- ii. support expansion of banking facilities to rural and outreach areas.

1.2.3 Development of trade-supportive legal and regulatory environment

The provisions for various marketing Acts and trade practices should be reconsidered. To bring the markets under the trade supportive market regulations it is essential that, various forms of marketing charges, taxes and levies be rationalised and market development be ensured. Efficient delivery of services is important in marketing of farm products. Positive roles of intermediaries like marketing agents, wholesalers, informal investors and financiers in marketing should be recognised. To improve market structure, regulatory and legal support will also help increase competition through encouragement of new entrants at different levels of marketing system.

To ensure development of trade-supportive and market-friendly regulatory environment the Government will undertake the following steps:

- i. establish a dependable system of monitoring private storage and supply of food items;
- ii. ensure recognition of the positive role of market intermediaries; and
- iii. enact and enforce competitive trade promoting Anti-trust and Anti-monopoly Acts.

1.2.4 Development and dissemination of early warning and market information system

A well functioning early warning system has been recognised as an important tool for national food supply management and improved national food security system. The system should be operationalised in coordination with the global early warning system.

To achieve this, the Government will accomplish the following:

- i. provide dependable weather forecasts for disseminating a well coordinated food production outlook both at national and global perspectives;
- ii. provide short and long-range forecasts related to climate, food production and expected supply, demand and price situations in both domestic and international markets; and
- iii. conduct research and initiate improved forecasting systems related to natural disaster in order to enhance food information and early warning related analytical capabilities for better management of the food system.

Strategy-1.3: Non-distortionary foodgrain market intervention for price stabilisation

In case of Government interventions in the foodgrain market and management of foodgrain stocks, the Government of Bangladesh is trying to maintain a balance between producer and consumer interests, so that overall growths in agricultural or household food security for the poor are not compromised. Especially to note that welfare of the poor (producer and consumer) of Bangladesh

foodgrain price is a crucial determinant. Increasing trend in foodgrain production cost not only raise the instability of farmers' income but also discourages private investment in essential agricultural inputs like irrigation, agricultural machineries and other long-term productive sectors. Since expenditure on food is more than 70 percent of total income of the poor households, large increases in food price at the consumer level lower their real income. As a result, their food consumption decreases, which poses a threat to their lives. The Government has therefore planned for a non-distortionary foodgrain market intervention programme to accelerate market price stability, encourage market competition and to improve food security, yet not discouraging private sector trade and storage. Carrying out such a food price stabilisation policy in a sustained manner is not easy, because, particularly, of the rapid changes in international market, fluctuations in domestic production and periodic natural disasters. A non-distortionary price stabilisation policy is absolutely essential in the light of large rises and falls in foodgrain price.

1.3.1 Price incentives for domestic food production

To give adequate production incentives for increased domestic production and to enhance farmer's income, the Government efforts are in place in procuring foodgrains in the intensive procurement zones at prices higher than the average production costs. However, the Government has to give a substantial amount of subsidy in public food operation due to expenses involved in storage, transport and offtake in addition to the fixed public procurement prices. In order to encourage domestic food production, the Government's policy would be:

- i. purchase foodgrain in the domestic foodgrain market through:
 - (a) domestic procurement programme at a price high enough to cover cost of production with adequate profit for the farmers, but not so high as to encourage rent-seeking behaviour;
 - (b) purchase from domestic market through open competitive tenders;
- ii. help in developing marketing system to ensure remunerative producer prices; and
- iii. encourage development of storage facilities and marketing infrastructure in private sector.

1.3.2 Public foodgrain stock

In consideration of the concerns about the welfare of the consumers and producers at times of abnormal increase or decreases of foodgrain prices in the market due to fluctuations in domestic production, the Government directly intervenes in the market by procuring and selling foodgrains. The major objective of the public food distribution system is to supply required quantity of grain to the food-assisted development and income transfer programmes for the poor, who are unable to purchase minimum required quantity of food from the market at prevailing market prices. In addition to maintaining working stock of foodgrains to operate various food-based safety net programmes, the Government also maintains a security reserve to cope for emergency needs during disasters. A considerable improvement has been achieved in public food management, concomitant with persistent increase in food production in recent years.

The government's stated policy in National Food and Nutrition Policy (1997) is to maintain a minimum of 800 thousand metric tons of foodgrains in public stock. In order to handle uncertainties of import arrival and emergency offtake requirements, the Government has decided

to maintain a public stock of 1.0 million tons of foodgrains. Usually, during the domestic foodgrain procurement season, the public stock level exceeds the target level, while in pre-harvest periods public stock level may go below the target level. The dynamics of accumulation and distribution have to reflect the real situation in building up of the public foodgrain stock. In order to maintain the public food stock, the Government will undertake the following measures:

- i. regular monitoring activities relating to foodgrain stock, prices, prospects of food aid arrival, private imports, domestic production, and public procurement and distribution;
- ii. integrate public food operation with overall trade policies to undertake market supply enhancing strategies, especially when there is any shortfall in food supplies;
- iii. determination of public food procurement level considering the need for smooth implementation of targeted public food distribution, creation of employment opportunities and maintenance of incentives for private food trade; and
- iv. build up a public foodgrain stock of 1.0 million metric tons at the beginning of fiscal year, considering the dynamics of seasonal variation in public procurement and distribution.

1.3.3 Consumers price support

Targeted food distribution programmes are considered as major factors in enhancing household food security for the poor. To promote food security of the poor and distressed households the Government operates targeted programmes such as Vulnerable Group Development, Food/ Cash-for-Work, Vulnerable Group Feeding and Food/Cash-for-Education etc. Due to resource constraints many poor and nutritionally at-risk households remain outside the coverage of these programmes and an alternative mechanism for increasing food security for these people is to prevent any abnormal increase in market prices of foodgrain.

To provide consumers price support, the Government will undertake the following measures:

- i. operate Open Market Sales (OMS) programme, distribute foodgrain at low price or free of cost;
- ii. sell foodgrains at fixed prices to special priority groups through channels like Essential Priorities (EP), Other Priorities (OP), Large Employment Industries (LEI), etc.; and
- iii. foodgrain distribution through targeted food programmes to poor people who are nutritionally vulnerable due to higher level of market prices.

Objective-2: Increased purchasing power and access to food of the people

In addition to its efforts to help ensure adequate foodgrain availability, to ensure increased access to food for all particularly for the poor, the Government of Bangladesh uses two major approaches. First, to increase short-run access to food thereby helping to meet their immediate food security needs, a number of programmes use direct transfers of food or the cash proceeds from food aid monetisation. Second, in order to increase the poor household's long-term access to food, the Government implements policies and invests in development projects designed to raise sustained capacity of the poor to increase

their ability to acquire food through employment-generating economic growth. The implementation of poverty reduction strategy will increase economic access to food as a key component of food security.

Strategy -2.1: Transitory shock management

Emergency preparedness is needed to alleviate the transitory food insecurity caused by floods, cyclones and other natural disasters that often occur in Bangladesh. Emergency relief programmes are operated to mitigate the distress of the affected people. It is possible to reduce the negative impacts of disasters through implementation of modern and dependable early warning system. Although substantial successes have been achieved in facing disasters in Bangladesh, it has not yet been possible to reduce ill effects of disasters to tolerable limits for the poor people living in disaster-prone areas due to their extensive poverty and poor infrastructures. To satisfy the emergency distribution needs public foodgrain stocks equal to three months of emergency demand along with a relief system to distribute food, clean water, medicines and other essentials are being maintained. In this regard, it is essential to operate an effective and comprehensive disaster management system for the country. In addition, the required level of minimum public foodgrain stocks should be reviewed annually considering the changing situations in domestic and global markets coupled with disaster proneness.

2.1.1. Special measures for disaster mitigation for agriculture

Bangladesh agriculture is highly risk-prone and is subject to frequent natural shocks, mainly by droughts, floods and cyclones. Frequent natural disasters reduce the asset base of the poor, can even completely destroy it. River erosion and agricultural land degradation make these problems further intense. Poverty and food insecurity is higher in areas with a high risk of natural disasters like floods and droughts. These natural shocks cause irreparable damage to the farming systems of the poor farmers and immediately make them more food insecure. Disaster preparedness and post-disaster rehabilitation are the important components of food security. The Government will pursue the following measures to mitigate the negative effects of these disasters on agriculture:

- i. supplementary irrigation during drought to avoid severe reduction of yield and crop failures;
- ii. development and extension of more location-specific flood/drought tolerant varieties and associated production technologies for major crops through the National Agricultural Research Systems; and
- iii. homestead gardening, including fruits and vegetables farming, social forestry, livestock and backyard poultry in the homestead areas in the flood-free years.

2.1.2. Emergency distribution from public stock

Public foodgrain stocks enable the Government to respond quickly to disaster-induced emergency food situations. This distribution augments foodgrain availability in the disaster-affected areas and helps stabilise market prices by absorbing the shocks due to mismatch in foodgrain supply-demand situations. To provide for the emergency food needs of households in the disaster-affected areas, the policy of the Government is to:

- i. ensure quick distribution of food in affected households in times of disaster;
- ii. hold enough foodgrain stocks to cover at least three months of emergency distribution need in addition to its normal working stock needed for the regular food-based programmes;

- iii. diversify sources of Government commercial imports to reduce possible risks involved in importing food from any single country and to employ cautionary measures to avoid the risk of excessive import; and
- iv. minimise the overall cost of public food distribution through reduction in system loss and employing an efficient stock management system.

2.1.3. Measures for increased supply through private trade and stock

Under the liberalised international trade policy the Government encourages private sector involvement in importation of foodgrain to cover the shortage in market supply in times of domestic production failures. To ensure private sector participation in meeting the domestic production deficit and enhance the economic access to food, the Government will:

- i. ensure removal of restrictions on storage and movement of food;
- ii. provide credit facilities for storage and stock-holding;
- iii. support development of efficient storage and delivery techniques;
- iv. encourage private imports through selective trade and fiscal policy measures to absorb internal and external price hike shocks; and
- v. extend public storage/handling facilities for use by the private traders at reasonable prices to ensure speedy and efficient delivery of food through the private sector.

Strategy-2.2: Effective implementation of targeted food programmes to improve food security

Access to food from private food market for the hard-core poor, who are exposed to severe nutritional risk throughout the year, is inadequate. Moreover, since about half of the population of the country living below the poverty line, many of the households faces seasonal food insecurity, i.e. they face hunger, malnutrition and deprivation during the lean season. People belonging to occupations like day labourers, fishermen and the boat pullers are especially vulnerable. A well-targeted intervention programme for the households who fall victims of distress and high nutritional vulnerability due to temporal resettlement increases the real income and food consumption of the target group to a great extent (without providing those benefits to non-needy members of the population). Hence, minimising leakage to non-target households is essential to make a targeted programme successful. Leakage increases cost and reduces cost-effectiveness of targeted interventions. The slum dwellers and the rural landless are among the most distressed population. Malnutrition is extreme among the slum dwellers due to their poor sanitation facilities and limited income. Likewise, malnutrition is widespread among the distressed rural landless and their family members. In addition, there are other poor families consisting of the old, the abandon women, the helpless widows and the disabled, for whom the social safety net needs to be expanded.

Geographic targeting also allows intervention to specific distress-dense areas of the country. This may include the concerns of less employment opportunities, lower level of infrastructure and agricultural development and in particular the frequent incidence of natural calamities. With respect to all these concerns, flood prone areas particularly those affected by land erosion along the

major river banks and the urban slums are considered as the most nutritionally distressed areas of the country. The Government of Bangladesh, therefore, targets the population groups, regions and seasons where nutritional stress is most acute through income transfers, targeted food distribution and public works programmes.

In order to increase access to food by poor households, the Government will implement the following programmes under the Public Food Distribution System:

- i. direct distribution to households for emergency relief by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management;
- ii. targeted distribution to disaster affected households through the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme for a reasonably longer post-disaster period;
- iii. distribution of foodgrain as wages in Food-for-Work (FFW) programmes managed by the Local Government Engineering Department, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and others;
- iv. direct distribution of food to poor households participating in training and development activities (as in the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme managed by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs); and
- v. expansion and effective implementation of the social safety net for the ultra-poor and the underprivileged population.

Strategy-2.3: Employment-generating income growth

Public sector and NGO programmes, currently under implementation, are contributing in improving short-term food security of the poor household through providing additional food or cash income. But the long-term food security can only be achieved through achieving broad-based labour-intensive economic growth in the country. As access to land and to capital for most of the poor is limited therefore more focus should be given on increasing employment opportunities for the poor. Since most of the poor reside in rural areas, rapid growth of the rural economy is a pre-requisite for enhancing household food security on a sustainable basis. Important underlying factors for attaining improved food security at the household level are provisioning of special training, basic assets (including opportunities of *khas* land for women) and credit facilities especially for poor women. Women-centered initiatives relating to production and marketing activities for cereals, livestock (including poultry) and non-cereal commodities will get special priority. To promote income growth of the poor, the Government of Bangladesh has undertaken numerous development projects and policies, important among which are:

- i. support to women and the disabled in income generating activities;
- ii. promote investment in employment enhancing technology;
- iii. incentives for development of agro-based industries;
- iv. special assistance for expansion of rural industries;
- v. education and skill development programmes; and
- vi. broad-based growth promoting macro-policy.

2.3.1. Support to women and the disabled in income generating activities

The role of women in contributing to food security is often not appreciated. They have always been striving hard to maintain a consistent source of food and nutrition for their families. Due to the growing responsibilities of women for household well-being they are considered as effective vehicles for ensuring household food security. Women also play a central role in determining intra-household food security and nutrition for individual family members.

It is necessary to initiate women-focused development programmes including involvement at a larger scale of women in ever increasing economic activities through better access to productive resources, inputs and services. Women have less access to extension services and vocational training, credits and technologies. The Government is firmly committed to remove these problems obstructing the contribution of women and the disabled to economic development and food security. In support of this, the Government will aim to:

- i. improve women's participation in all kinds of activities in agricultural sector and provide the opportunity and tools for rural women to improve their productivity in production, processing and marketing activities in the rural agriculture;
- ii. ensure disabled-and women-focused targeted training programmes and their control over and access to production resources including credit and new technologies;
- iii. initiate more women responsive projects and programmes with a view to increasing their participation in economic activities; and
- iv. initiate appropriate supportive measures to increase the capacity of women to strengthen food security at household levels.

2.3.2. Investment in employment enhancing technology

Technology enhances productivity but is often becomes capital intensive and labour replacing. Nevertheless it is desirable to pursue those technologies which effectively synchronises labour intensive technologies with the production processes. Adoption of high-yielding rice cultivation may be mentioned as an example. There is no alternative but to develop and adopt the most appropriate technology for competitive domestic and international rice production. Lack of education and skill often becomes barriers to appropriate technology adoption.

2.3.3. Incentives for development of agro-based industries

Development of agro-based industries can transform diversified agriculture into backward linkage industry and help increase the income of the rural poor. In the backdrop of presently underdeveloped agro-based industries, agro-based industries need special support with credit and other fiscal incentives. Support for development of appropriate technology, linkage between urban and global markets and rural markets, and easy access to transportation and processing facilities are also important for the interest of the growth of agro-industries.

2.3.4. Special support for expansion of rural industries

Appropriate incentive programmes should be undertaken for expansion of rural industries (especially in areas which are backward in this respect). Social security programmes can play important roles through providing special stimulatory assistance from the Government (e.g. partial premium assistance in rural and small insurance systems) for small rural entrepreneurs, as needed. In this respect, special priority needs to be given to ensure support for female-headed labour-intensive household-based initiatives.

2.3.5. Education, skill and human resources development

Basic and vocational educations are prerequisites for technology adoption. Public and private sector education and skill development programmes currently under implementation should be evaluated against their market demands. In this respect to determine the demand for various types of skills needed in domestic market and prospect of export of manpower abroad, a survey on labour market demand and employment prospects for different kind of skilled workers should be carried out.

2.3.6. Adoption of macro policy for broad-based labour-intensive growth

Growth of economy does not automatically ensure income for all. Creation of employment along with self-employment opportunities for the poor is the focus of macro economic policy. Government policy should target the rapid growth of the income of the poor. This requires adoption of policies for rapid growth of rural economy and enhancement of access to land, capital and credit including micro-credit and other social security measures to give social protection for the old aged, distressed women and the physically handicapped population.

Objective-3: Adequate nutrition for all individuals, especially for women and children

Although Bangladesh has achieved commendable success in food production in feeding the people and in facing transient shortages and shocks, nutritional problems are still acute among a large section of the population. Among other actions, the Government has approved the National Food and Nutrition Policy (1997) and the National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1997). In addition to reactivation of the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council, the Government has also instituted the Bangladesh National Nutrition Programme (NNP) to cover broader aspects of nutrition and utilisation problems. For development of human resource potential, the Government has put nutrition considerations as one of the topmost priority agenda in the Poverty Reduction Strategy, which was developed in light of the Millennium Development Goals. To this end, the long term goal is to effectively incorporate the nutrition programmes in the overall development process of the country. Utilisation of food for nutrition, consumption of food rich in macronutrients (calorie, protein, fats and oils), micronutrient-rich food supplementation and nutrition education and information transfer, particularly for the vulnerable people (poor women, children and disabled) play significant role in the improvement of the overall nutrition situation. Over and above, prevention and control of diseases and programmes relating to water, sanitation and other health services development also need to be included.

Strategy-3.1: Long-term national plan for ensuring balanced food in building a healthy nation

To build the country to a healthy nation, it is essential to develop human resources equipped with physical, mental and intellectual capabilities. It is desirable to formulate food production and

marketing plans taking into consideration the economic growth and also the changes in food demand consequent to household income and the overall socio-economic progress in the country. In order to formulate long term plans to ensure balanced food by reducing dependency on rice and by changing the food habit for the development of a healthy nation, the Government will take the following initiatives:

3.1.1 Setting long-term targets for physical growth in building a healthy nation

- i. setting long-term targets for physical growth in commensuration with overall changes; and
- ii. adopting plans for food availability taking into consideration the long-term sequential changes in food demands.

3.1.2 Setting a standard food intake in accordance with the physical, mental and intellectual needs

- i. setting desirable targets to ensure balanced food for building a healthy nation; and
- ii. setting the percapita calorie requirement for balanced nutrition of different population groups with different body size and occupations.

3.1.3 Taking steps to ensure balanced food to meet nutritional requirements

- i. formulate integrated plan to attain in stages the desired targets of balanced food intake; and
- ii. prepare and update a dependable food balance-sheet for Bangladesh on the basis of regular surveys on food intake.

3.1.4 Taking steps to ensure balanced nutrition at minimal costs

- i. prepare diet charts on the basis of local menus at low costs, yet attaining balanced nutrition; and
- ii. take steps to increase availability through local production of low cost items for balanced nutrition.

Strategy-3.2: Supply of sufficient nutritious food for vulnerable groups

Ensuring sufficient consumption of nutrient-rich food (calories, protein, fats and oils) is at the heart of food security policy. For proper nutrition of the distressed population, particularly the disabled, the children and the women (especially the adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers), it is essential to increase their carbohydrate, protein, fat and oil intake. To promote adequate intakes of macronutrients, the policy of the Government of Bangladesh is to work together with NGOs and development partners to:

- i. identify vulnerable groups and individuals, undertake nutrition programmes for improved food security and design appropriate strategies at the community level; and

- ii. increase empowerment of the vulnerable groups and individuals through specialised, skill-enhancing, disabled-friendly educational facilities and primary education for girls; micro-credit, and development projects involving training of vulnerable individuals.

Strategy-3.3: Balanced diet containing adequate micronutrients

Side by side with adequate intake of carbohydrates, protein, fats and oils, it is essential to ensure intake of diets rich in iron, vitamin-A and other micronutrients for better health of the Bangladeshi population. To attain this, cost-effective public health interventions and nutrition education programmes need to be undertaken. Other potential and sustainable strategies are development of iron and vitamin-A rich staple crops through conventional plant breeding for bio-fortification. In the interim, effective programmes for micronutrient supplementation and food fortification (with established standards and regulatory mechanisms) need to be explored as cost-effective approaches. Considering the long lasting negative effects of micronutrient malnutrition, the Government will undertake programmes to increase availability and accessibility of good quality food. In addition, the Government will undertake the following steps to mitigate malnutrition:

3.3.1 Nutrition education programmes, including

- i. strengthen formal and non-formal education programmes to popularise the idea of balanced food and take steps for communication of dietary guidelines on balanced food in the mass-media;
- ii. intensify communication programmes on modification of dietary habits at the community level, especially in rural areas; and
- iii. develop ideal nutrition education module and incorporate it into various education programmes.

3.3.2 Dietary diversification

- i. undertake and provide extension services to home gardening and backyard poultry projects and programmes to encourage diversified food intake, in the backdrop of increased availability at the production and marketing levels.

3.3.3 Effective food supplementation and fortification

- i. fortification of atta (whole-wheat flour) and other processed food products;
- ii. compulsory iodisation of salt for human and animal consumption; and
- iii. supplementary feeding through nutrition and food intervention programmes.

Strategy-3.4: Safe drinking water and improved sanitation

Safe drinking water and improved sanitation can potentially have a major impact on nutritional outcomes in Bangladesh, because of the current high prevalence of diarrhoeal and other water-borne diseases. Of high priority among the existing and the planned facilities is the testing and control of water quality (especially the arsenic content of drinking water). The Government policies and programmes to improve water safety and sanitation are:

- i. health education, including proper child-care practices, and the importance of safe drinking water and sanitary practices for prevention of diseases;
- ii. infrastructure development, including public investments in water supply (e.g. community tubewells) and sanitation; and
- iii. expansion of the existing public facilities for testing water quality (particularly the arsenic content).

Strategy-3.5: Safe, quality food supply

Food safety is an important concern at the present time. While development of the marketing system of the rapidly growing processed and other quality food is important, care also needs to be taken to maintain the quality of foods at all levels of marketing (e.g. assembling, cleaning, sorting, processing and packaging). Quality control is very important in both domestic and international trades. Bangladesh is a signatory to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures under the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Technical Barrier to Trade (TBD) Agreements and also a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission-bodies to ensure supply of safe food. Priority may be given to assessment and prevention of risks involved in the distribution of safe food along the entire channel from production to consumption. The following programmes will be undertaken to ensure supply of safe and quality food through formulating new regulations by proper amendments of the existing ones and through encouraging the private sector initiatives:

- i. formulation of uniform arrangement, development of testing techniques, setting of standards and their application and compulsory enforcement;
- ii. investment in development of packing or packaging and safe storage facilities;
- iii. increase laboratory facilities and impart practical knowledge for development of the quality of food and food products;
- iv. training for concerned officials and institutions in protecting the grades and standards of food products;
- v. campaign for nutrition enhancing quality and safe food; and
- vi. develop and enforce appropriate regulatory mechanism to control indiscriminate use of harmful additives, preservatives and toxic elements in production and in the marketing chain for foodstuffs.

Strategy-3.6: Adequate health status

Disease control not only contributes to raising nutritional status, but also helps in improving the health condition. With regard to nutrition and proper utilisation of food, the Government of Bangladesh has instituted various programmes including the Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPS) in cooperation and coordination with the NGOs i.e. the development organisations. The following issues are included in the programme:

- i. Extended programme for immunisation (EPI), control of acute respiratory infection (ARI), and prevention and control of cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases;
- ii. implementation of the reproductive health programmes; and
- iii. implementation of the National Nutrition Programme involving community mobilisation and community-based nutrition service delivery through the NGOs, targeted to children and women of reproductive age suffering from persistent weakness and micronutrient deficiencies.

Section-E: Food Policy Research, Analysis and Co-ordination

Food policy is gradually becoming more complex with the inclusion of all dimensions of food security (i.e., availability of, access to and utilisation of food). These dimensions of food security policy have to be implemented by the concerned activities of various ministries, departments and agencies of the Government. Changes in world trade and food aid environment also influence the current strategies, which pose new challenges for the food policy in future. The policy makers may face constraints in programme formulation, monitoring, evaluation and coordination of activities. Coordination of food security enhancing activities needs to be accomplished at the national level. The local and other level authorities might be able to take well coordinated decisions on the implementation of the food security related policies and strategies.

To develop, update and successfully implement the food policy, the policy makers need a clear appreciation of the options at their disposal and the likely result of their choices. Generating a clear picture will obviously require (a) continued information flow, (b) analysis of information, (c) knowledge of changing dynamics of food security environment, (d) adequate number of options, and (e) short-and long-run forecast of domestic and world supply and trade. To support this process, the food policy analysts and researchers will look ahead through continued research and analysis to predict what kind of information policy-makers are likely to need in the future.

There is a need to activate and strengthen the concerned agencies to formulate and acquire resources for the food security related programmes within the overall framework of the food policy. At present, the national level "Food Planning and Monitoring Committee" chaired by the Minister of Food and Disaster Management will plan and monitor the overall national food security efforts, including food utilisation and nutrition issues. Representative of all ministries associated with food security activities (e.g. the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) will be in this committee, so that progress on all aspects of food policy can be discussed to give necessary directives to formulate and implement food policy-related programmes.

Section-F: Conclusion

Availability of food, though indispensable for food security, is not enough to significantly improve food security at the household level. For improved household food security, all out efforts are

needed to ensure nutrition of the poor through improving their accessibility to food and ensuring full biological utilisation of the food. The overall food security can be well attained when increased accessibility to food is ensured through enhanced skill in domestic agriculture and increased availability of cereals and non-cereals, through attaining food accessibility by sustained increase in income of the poor and through education and health services leading to effective utilisation of food of the malnourished people. It is expected that the people of the country will be able to enjoy their desired food security through effective implementation of the food policy now formulated. Other food security enhancing policies and strategies will be integrated with this food policy. When needed, the formulated policy will be made ready for implementation through promulgation of Government notification.



জাতীয় খাদ্যনীতি, ২০০৬

খাদ্য ও দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা মন্ত্রণালয়

১৪ই আগস্ট, ২০০৬

জাতীয় খাদ্যনীতি, ২০০৬

ক. পটভূমি

খাদ্য মানুষের অন্যতম মৌলিক চাহিদা। বাংলাদেশের কৃষিনির্ভর অর্থনীতিতে খাদ্যের ভূমিকা অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ- যেখানে দেশের জনগণ তাদের আয়ের বেশীরভাগ খাদ্যের জন্য ব্যয় করে। রাষ্ট্রের প্রথম ও প্রধান দায়িত্ব হল সকল সময়ে সবার জন্য নিরবচ্ছিন্নভাবে খাদ্য সরবরাহ নিশ্চিতকরণ। গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশের সংবিধানের ১৫(ক) অনুচ্ছেদ অনুযায়ী রাষ্ট্রের মৌলিক দায়িত্ব সকল নাগরিকের খাদ্যের মৌলিক চাহিদা পূরণের ব্যবস্থা করা। সরকারের কার্যবিধি অনুযায়ী জাতির জন্য একটি নির্ভরযোগ্য খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা প্রতিষ্ঠার দায়িত্ব খাদ্য ও দুর্যোগ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা মন্ত্রণালয়ের উপর ন্যস্ত। ১৯৯৬ সালের বিশ্ব খাদ্য শীর্ষ সম্মেলনে গৃহীত সংজ্ঞা অনুযায়ী সকল সময়ে সকল নাগরিকের কর্মক্ষম ও সুস্থ জীবন যাপনে প্রয়োজনীয় খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা নিশ্চিতকল্পে সবার জন্য খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা অর্জনে বাংলাদেশ সরকার অঙ্গীকারাবদ্ধ। সরকারের সকল উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনায় এর প্রতিফলনও ঘটেছে।

বাংলাদেশ ১৯৯৪ সালের উরুগুয়ে বাণিজ্য চুক্তি (GATT Uruguay Round Agreement)-এর একটি স্বাক্ষরকারী দেশ - যেখানে অন্যান্য বিষয়ের সাথে কৃষি বাণিজ্য উদারীকরণ নীতিও গৃহীত হয়েছে। বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন ফোরামের সভার পরামর্শমতে ২০০০ সালে "বাংলাদেশের জন্য একটি সার্বিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা নীতি" শিরোনামে টাফফোর্স প্রতিবেদন প্রণয়নের মাধ্যমে দেশের খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা কার্যক্রমকে বর্ধিত আঙ্গিকে সুসংহত করার প্রক্রিয়া শুরু হয়। সকলের জন্য খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকল্পে সরকারের প্রচেষ্টাকে উচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করতঃ ইতোমধ্যে আরও সঙ্গতিপূর্ণ ও সুসংহত করা হয়েছে। প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে বিদ্যমান নীতি ও কৌশলসমূহ পুনর্বিন্যাসের মাধ্যমে তা সম্পন্ন করা হয়েছে। ইতোপূর্বে ১৯৮৮ সালে গৃহীত দেশের প্রথম খাদ্যনীতির লক্ষ্য ছিল খাদ্যশস্যের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি ও স্বয়ংসম্পূর্ণতা অর্জনের মাধ্যমে সবার জন্য খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বিধান। কেবলমাত্র খাদ্যশস্যের ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য করে প্রণীত খাদ্যনীতি, ১৯৮৮-তে খাদ্যশস্যের লভ্যতা ব্যতিরেকে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার ক্ষেত্রে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অনেক বিষয়ে অপূর্ণতা থেকে যায়। সম্প্রতি গৃহীত দারিদ্র বিমোচন কৌশল পত্রের আলোকে এবং বিশ্ব খাদ্য শীর্ষ সম্মেলনে গৃহীত খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার সংজ্ঞা অনুযায়ী বর্ধিত আঙ্গিকে বর্তমান খাদ্যনীতি প্রণয়ন করা হয়েছে।

বিগত দশকে বাংলাদেশে খাদ্য ব্যবস্থার ক্ষেত্রে ব্যাপক পরিবর্তন এসেছে - যেখানে চাল ও গমের বাজারে অধিকমাত্রায় সরকারী হস্তক্ষেপ কমিয়ে বাজারমুখী করা হয়েছে; একই সাথে সরকারী খাদ্য বিতরণ ব্যবস্থাকে সুসংহত করে দরিদ্র ও দুস্থ পরিবারসমূহের জন্য অধিকতর লক্ষ্যমুখী করা হয়েছে। অধিকন্তু, খাদ্যশস্যের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি ও জাতীয় পর্যায়ে খাদ্যশস্যের লভ্যতা সন্তোষজনকভাবে বজায় থাকায় এবং পুষ্টিশিক্ষাসহ শিশু ও নারীর পুষ্টি উন্নয়নমুখী প্রচেষ্টাসমূহকে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করে সরকারের খাদ্যনীতির ব্যাপ্তি ক্রমশ প্রসার লাভ করেছে। বাংলাদেশের জীবনধারণোপযোগী গ্রামীণ অর্থনীতিতে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তাহীনতার বিষয়টি মৌলিক খাদ্যের উৎপাদন, জনসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি এবং চাষযোগ্য জমি হ্রাসের উপর সরাসরি নির্ভরশীল। দেশে বিদ্যমান দারিদ্রাবস্থায় উপরিউক্ত নিয়ামকসমূহ জাতীয় খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বিধানকে জটিল করে তুলেছে।

সবার জন্য খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকরণ বর্তমানে বাংলাদেশের জন্য অন্যতম চ্যালেঞ্জ। দেশে খাদ্যশস্য উৎপাদন ও খাদ্য লভ্যতার ক্ষেত্রে উল্লেখযোগ্য সফলতা অর্জন সত্ত্বেও ব্যক্তিগত, পারিবারিক ও জাতীয় পর্যায়ে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বিধান সরকারের জন্য একটি গুরুত্ববহ বিষয় হয়ে থাকছে। স্বাধীনতার পর থেকে বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ খাদ্যশস্য উৎপাদনে তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ সফলতা অর্জন করেছে- যা বহুলাংশে জাতীয় পর্যায়ে অপ্রতুল খাদ্য লভ্যতার সমস্যা দূরীকরণে সহায়ক হয়েছে। পর্যাপ্ত খাদ্যের লভ্যতা নিশ্চিতকরণের আবশ্যিকতা অনস্বীকার্য হলেও জাতীয় খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকরণে যথেষ্ট নয়। সবার জন্য খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকরণে দরিদ্র ও দুস্থ পরিবারসমূহের জন্য খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা ও সংগৃহীত খাদ্যের যথাযথ ব্যবহারে সচেষ্ট হওয়া প্রয়োজন।

১৯৯৬ সালের বিশ্ব খাদ্য শীর্ষ সম্মেলনের ঘোষণা ও সহস্রাব্দ উন্নয়ন লক্ষ্য (২০০০) অনুযায়ী বাংলাদেশ সরকার দেশে দরিদ্র জনগোষ্ঠীর সংখ্যা ২০১৫ সালের মধ্যে অর্ধেকের নামিয়ে আনার লক্ষ্যমাত্রা নির্ধারণ করেছে। এ লক্ষ্যমাত্রা অর্জনের জন্য খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার সকল দিক, যথা- (১) অভ্যন্তরীণ কৃষি ব্যবস্থার অধিকতর দক্ষতা আনয়নসহ খাদ্যের বর্ধিত লভ্যতা, (২) খাদ্য নিরাপত্তাহীন জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য বর্ধিত খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা অর্জনে সহায়তা, (৩) খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিকল্পে দরিদ্র ও দুস্থ জনগোষ্ঠীর টেকসইভাবে আয় বৃদ্ধির ব্যবস্থা, (৪) সকলের জন্য নিরাপদ খাদ্য সরবরাহ এবং (৫) ভোগকৃত খাদ্যের যথাযথ ব্যবহার ও কার্যকারিতা বৃদ্ধির মাধ্যমে পুষ্টিহীনতা নিরসনে প্রয়োজনীয় কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা দরকার। সার্বিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকল্পে খাদ্য ও দুর্যোগ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা মন্ত্রণালয় নিজস্ব দায়িত্বাধীন কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার পাশাপাশি সহায়ক সকল কার্যক্রম বাস্তবায়নের জন্য সহযোগী মন্ত্রণালয় ও সংস্থা কর্তৃক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা

বৃদ্ধিমূলক নীতি ও কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়নের প্রচেষ্টা চালাতে সকল প্রকারের সহায়তা প্রদান নিশ্চিত করবে। এভাবে সরকারের সকল সংশ্লিষ্ট মন্ত্রণালয় ও সংস্থার নিজস্ব খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বৃদ্ধিমূলক (অনুমোদিত খাদ্যনীতির আলোকে পরবর্তীকালে সহযোগী মন্ত্রণালয়সমূহের সহায়তায় সম্মিলিতভাবে প্রণীতব্য খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা কর্মপরিকল্পনায় নির্ধারিত) কর্মসূচিসমূহ সম্মিলিতভাবে বাস্তবায়নের মাধ্যমে সার্বিকভাবে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা অর্জন সম্ভব হবে।

খ. খাদ্যনীতির লক্ষ্য ও উদ্দেশ্য

সকল সময়ে সকল জনগণের জন্য একটি নির্ভরযোগ্য খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে গৃহীত খাদ্যনীতির উদ্দেশ্যসমূহ হবে-

উদ্দেশ্য- ১: নিরবিচ্ছিন্নভাবে পর্যাপ্ত নিরাপদ ও পুষ্টিকর খাদ্য সরবরাহ করা;

উদ্দেশ্য- ২: জনগণের ক্রয়ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিসহ খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা/সুযোগ বৃদ্ধি করা; এবং

উদ্দেশ্য- ৩: সকলের (বিশেষত: নারী ও শিশুর) জন্য পর্যাপ্ত পুষ্টি বিধান করা।

গ. সার্বিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থার ধারণাগত কাঠামো

খাদ্যনীতির ঘোষিত লক্ষ্য হচ্ছে সকল সময়ে সকল জনগণের জন্য একটি নির্ভরযোগ্য খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা নিশ্চিত করা। এ লক্ষ্য অর্জনের জন্য দেশে বিদ্যমান খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থার প্রভূত উন্নয়ন প্রয়োজন। বাংলাদেশের প্রেক্ষাপটে খাদ্যনীতি একটি বহুমাত্রিক বিষয় - যেখানে বিভিন্ন মন্ত্রণালয় এবং সংস্থা খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা সংশ্লিষ্ট স্ব স্ব কর্মসূচি ও কৌশলসমূহ বাস্তবায়নের মাধ্যমে সাধারণ লক্ষ্য হিসেবে একটি নির্ভরযোগ্য খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা গড়ে তোলার জন্য সচেষ্ট থাকবে।

খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা উন্নয়নকল্পে একটি ফলপ্রসূ খাদ্যনীতি প্রণয়ন বাংলাদেশের জন্য অতীব গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়। জাতির কল্যাণে নিয়োজিত সবার জন্য এটি একটি গভীর তাৎপর্যবহ বিষয়। খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার সংজ্ঞানুযায়ী তখনই খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বিরাজমান - যখন সকলের জন্য একটি কর্মক্ষম, স্বাস্থ্যকর ও উৎপাদনমুখী জীবনযাপনের জন্য সকল সময়ে পর্যাপ্ত পরিমাণে নিরাপদ ও পুষ্টিমানসম্পন্ন খাদ্যের লভ্যতা ও প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা বিদ্যমান থাকে। খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার অন্যতম একটি উপাদান হল জাতীয় পর্যায়ে পর্যাপ্ত পরিমাণে খাদ্যের লভ্যতা (food availability) যা প্রায়শই জাতীয় খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার সমার্থক হিসেবে ব্যবহৃত হয়ে আসছে। অপর অপরিহার্য উপাদান হল ব্যক্তি ও পরিবার পর্যায়ে পর্যাপ্ত পরিমাণে খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা (access to food)। খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার তৃতীয় অপরিহার্য উপাদান হল খাদ্যের জৈবিক ব্যবহার (utilisation of food), যা অন্যান্য নিয়ামকসমূহ যথা - সুস্বাস্থ্য ও স্বাস্থ্যসম্মত পরিবেশের উপস্থিতি এবং পরিবার বা সরকার কর্তৃক সমাজের দুস্থ জনগোষ্ঠীকে সহায়তা প্রদানের সামর্থ্যের উপর নির্ভরশীল। সামগ্রিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা অর্জনের বিষয়টি পারস্পরিক সম্পর্কযুক্ত বিভিন্ন নিয়ামকের উপর নির্ভরশীল যেখানে যুগপৎভাবে প্রত্যেকটি নিয়ামকই যথেষ্ট গুরুত্ব পাওয়া আবশ্যিক। এসকল নিয়ামকের মধ্যে সুনির্দিষ্ট পারস্পরিক নির্ভরতা বিদ্যমান থাকায় খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা সম্পর্কিত সকল বিষয়ের মধ্যে সুস্পষ্ট ভারসাম্য বজায় রাখা অপরিহার্য।

বাংলাদেশের প্রেক্ষাপটে জাতীয় পর্যায়ে খাদ্যের লভ্যতা (food availability at national level) অভ্যন্তরীণ খাদ্য উৎপাদন, সরকারী ও বেসরকারী মজুদ এবং আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্যের পরিমাণের দ্বারা নির্ধারিত হয়। বাণিজ্য উদারীকরণের সাথে সাথে জাতীয় খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বিধানে আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে খাদ্যের সরবরাহ ও মূল্য পরিস্থিতির গুরুত্ব ক্রমশঃ বৃদ্ধি পেয়ে আসছে। পরিবারের নিজস্ব উৎপাদন/সংগ্রহের ক্ষমতা, পরিবারের খাদ্য মজুদের পরিমাণ এবং স্থানীয় বাজারে খাদ্যের লভ্যতার উপর পরিবার পর্যায়ে খাদ্যের লভ্যতা (food availability at household level) নির্ভর করে। তবে উপরোল্লিখিত বিষয়াদি বাজার কার্যক্রম অবকাঠামো, অভ্যন্তরীণ উৎপাদনের মৌসুমী ভিন্নতা, বাজার দক্ষতা ও সরকারী খাদ্য বিতরণ ব্যবস্থার কার্যকারিতার উপর অনেকাংশে নির্ভরশীল।

পারিবারিক খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা (access to food) আয়, সম্পদ, বিদেশ থেকে পাঠানো অর্থ প্রাপ্তি, উপহার, ঋণ, আয়-হস্তান্তর এবং খাদ্য সাহায্য প্রাপ্তির উপর নির্ভর করে। পারিবারিক আয় ও খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধির মাধ্যমে পরিবার পর্যায়ে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বৃদ্ধি করা সম্ভব। অধিকন্তু, বর্ধিত সম্পদভিত্তি পারিবারিক আয়ের সাময়িক ব্যাঘাতের ঝুঁকি হ্রাসসহ প্রতিকূল সময়ে পারিবারিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা হ্রাসের মাত্রা ঠেকানোর ক্ষেত্রে সহায়ক ভূমিকা পালন করে। বাজারে খাদ্যমূল্য বৃদ্ধির কারণে প্রকৃত আয় (real income) কমে গিয়ে ক্রয়ক্ষমতাহ্রাস পাওয়ায় নিম্ন-আয়ের পরিবারসমূহ সাময়িক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তাহীনতায় (transitory food insecurity) পতিত হয়।

খাদ্যের লভ্যতা এবং খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা/সুযোগ বৃদ্ধির মাধ্যমে ক্ষুধা নিবারণ করা সম্ভব হলেও তাতে অপুষ্টি (malnutrition) নিরসন সম্ভব নাও হতে পারে। দীর্ঘকালীন অপুষ্টির কারণ মূলত খাদ্য ভোগ ও অসুস্থতার মিথস্ক্রিয়ার মধ্যে নিহিত থাকে যা জৈবিক প্রয়োজন মেটাতে ব্যাঘাত ঘটায় এবং সামগ্রিক স্বাস্থ্য এবং স্বাস্থ্যকর পরিবেশকে বিরূপভাবে প্রভাবিত করে। পুষ্টি অবস্থা উন্নয়নের জন্য নিরাপদ ও পুষ্টিকর খাদ্যপ্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা নিশ্চিতকরণ অপরিহার্য। খাদ্য-বহির্ভূত অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় উপকরণের (যেমন - উন্নত স্বাস্থ্যসেবা, শিক্ষা, পয়ঃনিষ্কাশন, নিরাপদ পানি) অপ্রতুলতা ও অকার্যকর সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থা এবং তার দক্ষ পরিচালনার অভাবে দুঃস্থ ও সুবিধাবঞ্চিতদের উন্নয়নসহ প্রয়োজনীয় খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিকল্পে ইতোমধ্যে গৃহীত ব্যবস্থাসমূহের কার্যকারিতাকে অর্থহীন করে তুলতে পারে। অসহায় জনগোষ্ঠীর পুষ্টিবস্থা উন্নয়নের জন্য উন্নত স্বাস্থ্য-ব্যবস্থা ও স্বাস্থ্যকর পরিবেশসম্মত সুবিধাদি স্থানীয় পর্যায়ে সহজলভ্য

করে তা পরিবারের শিশু, নারী ও দুস্থ সদস্যদের নিকট পৌছানোর সুব্যবস্থা নিশ্চিত করা অপরিহার্য। অন্তঃপরিবার (intra-household) পর্যায়ে যথাযথ পরিচর্যার অভ্যাস গড়নসহ পরিবারের সদস্যদের মধ্যে লিঙ্গভেদ বা অন্য কোন পক্ষপাতিত্ব না করে জৈবিক প্রয়োজনীয়তার ভিত্তিতে খাদ্যভোগ নিশ্চিতকরণের মাধ্যমে এ লক্ষ্য অর্জন সম্ভব।

ঘ. জাতীয় খাদ্যনীতির উদ্দেশ্য, পদ্ধতি-কৌশল ও কার্যাবলী

উদ্দেশ্য-১. নিরবচ্ছিন্নভাবে পর্যাপ্ত নিরাপদ ও পুষ্টিকর খাদ্য সরবরাহ করা

খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার অন্যতম আঙ্গিক হল অব্যাহতভাবে সকল জনগোষ্ঠীর আয়ের সাথে সংগতিপূর্ণভাবে খাদ্য চাহিদা মেটানোর জন্য খাদ্যের লভ্যতা নিশ্চিত করা। একটি কর্মঠ ও সুস্থ জীবন অর্জনের জন্য যে পরিমাণ গুণসম্পন্ন খাদ্যের প্রয়োজন সেই পরিমাণ খাদ্য সকলে সবসময় ক্রয় করতে পারলে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা অর্জিত হয়। এক্ষেত্রে স্থিতিশীল মূল্যে খাদ্যশস্য সরবরাহসহ শস্য বহির্ভূত পুষ্টিকর খাদ্যের উৎপাদন ও বাজারজাতকরণ, দরিদ্রদের কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রকৃত আয় বৃদ্ধি এবং পুষ্টি উন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যে সার্বিক কৃষি উন্নয়ন অপরিহার্য। উচ্চফলনশীল শস্যজাত ব্যবহারের পাশাপাশি বাংলাদেশের উর্বর জমি, পর্যাপ্ত শ্রমিক ও পানি সম্পদের প্রতুলতা ইত্যাদি সুবিধার কারণে প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগবিহীন বছরসমূহে দেশে যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ ধান উৎপাদন সম্ভবপর হয়েছে। এসকল কারণেই অভ্যন্তরীণ খাদ্য অর্থনীতিতে শস্য হিসেবে চালের আধিপত্য বজায় থাকছে। খাদ্যে স্বনির্ভর হওয়া বাংলাদেশ সরকারের একটি লক্ষ্য এবং সরকার অভ্যন্তরীণ ভোগের জন্য যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ খাদ্যশস্য উৎপাদন নিশ্চিতকরণে প্রচেষ্টা চালিয়ে আসছে।

কৌশল ১.১. দক্ষ ও টেকসইভাবে খাদ্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি

দীর্ঘমেয়াদে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা অর্জনে প্রচেষ্টাসমূহের মূল দিক হচ্ছে দক্ষ ও টেকসইভাবে অভ্যন্তরীণ খাদ্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি। টেকসইভাবে খাদ্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি নিশ্চিতকরণে উন্নত কৃষি ব্যবস্থার মাধ্যমে উৎপাদনশীলতা বৃদ্ধি ও সার্বিক পুষ্টি চাহিদার নিরিখে কৃষিকে বহুমুখীকরণ প্রয়োজন। কৃষি উন্নয়ন ও সম্প্রসারণ, বিদ্যমান ভূমির সর্বোত্তম ও দক্ষ ব্যবহার, কৃষি উপকরণসহ সেচের জন্য পানির দক্ষ ব্যবহার, পশুসম্পদ, মৎস্য ও ফলসহ অশস্যজাত খাদ্য উৎপাদনের জন্য কৃষি নিবিড়করণে উন্নত কৃষি প্রযুক্তি, গবেষণা ও কৃষিক্ষণ সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপসহ সরকার নিম্নোক্ত পদ্ধতি ও কার্যাবলী গ্রহণ করবে :

১.১.১. কৃষি উন্নয়ন ও সম্প্রসারণ

টেকসইভাবে দীর্ঘমেয়াদে অভ্যন্তরীণ খাদ্যশস্য উৎপাদন ও শস্য-বহুমুখীকরণ, খাদ্যাভ্যাস পরিবর্তনসহ উন্নত বীজ সরবরাহ এবং মাটির গুণগতমান সংরক্ষণের মাধ্যমে উৎপাদনশীলতা বৃদ্ধির নিমিত্তে সরকার গবেষণা ও সম্প্রসারণমূলক নিম্নলিখিত কার্যক্রমসমূহ গ্রহণ করবে :

- ১) লাগসই প্রযুক্তি উদ্ভাবনে প্রায়োগিক কৃষি গবেষণা কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ ও সম্প্রসারণ কার্যক্রম শক্তিশালীকরণে পর্যাপ্ত অর্থায়ন;
- ২) অঞ্চলভিত্তিক ভূমির উৎপাদনশীলতা, শস্যের উপযুক্ততা এবং আনুষঙ্গিক কৃষি পরিবেশ বৈশিষ্ট্যাবলী বিবেচনান্তে একটি দীর্ঘমেয়াদী খাদ্য উৎপাদন পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন;
- ৩) খাদ্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধিকল্পে রাস্তাঘাট, খাল ও সেচ ব্যবস্থা, পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন এবং বাজার অবকাঠামো উন্নয়নে বিনিয়োগ; এবং
- ৪) কৃষি গবেষণা ও সম্প্রসারণের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় মানব সম্পদের উন্নয়ন এবং লাগসই উৎপাদন প্রযুক্তির প্রসারের জন্য মানব সম্পদের ফলপসু ব্যবহার নিশ্চিতকরণ।

১.১.২. পানি সম্পদের দক্ষ ব্যবহার

খাদ্যশস্য ও অন্যান্য ফসলের উৎপাদন এবং ফলন বৃদ্ধির জন্য সেচ অন্যতম প্রধান উপাদান। দীর্ঘমেয়াদে ফসল উৎপাদনের নিবিড়তা ও ফলনের হার ক্রমান্বয়ে বৃদ্ধির জন্য একটি সুপরিকল্পিত সেচ ব্যবস্থাপনা কার্যক্রম গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে উৎপাদন এবং উৎপাদনশীলতা বৃদ্ধির জন্য অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপসহ সরকার নিম্নোক্ত পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করবে :

- (১) সেচযুক্ত এলাকাসমূহের মধ্যে ফলন ব্যবধান (yield gap) হ্রাস ও টেকসইভাবে দীর্ঘমেয়াদে উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি অব্যাহত রাখতে ফসল চাষের নিবিড়তা ও উৎপাদনশীলতা বাড়ানোর লক্ষ্যে কৃষকদেরকে সম্পূরক সেচ ব্যবহারের জন্য উৎসাহিতকরণ;
- ২) সরকারী ও বেসরকারী খাতে সেচের জন্য ভূ-উপরিস্থ ও ভূ-গর্ভস্থ পানি ব্যবহার এবং সেচ অবকাঠামো উন্নয়নে উৎসাহিতকরণ;
- ৩) চাষাবাদের জন্য নিরাপদ, দূষণমুক্ত সেচের পানির দক্ষ ব্যবহার নিশ্চিতকরণ;
- ৪) এলাকাভিত্তিক অংশগ্রহণমূলক সেচ ব্যবস্থাপনা পদ্ধতির বাস্তবায়ন;
- ৫) ভূ-গর্ভস্থ পানির উপর নির্ভরশীলতা কমানোর লক্ষ্যে একটি পানি সংরক্ষণ নীতি-কৌশল উদ্ভাবনকরতঃ সংরক্ষিত পানি সম্পূরক সেচ কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ;
- ৬) মৎস্য সম্পদের ক্ষতি না করে সরকারী ও বেসরকারী পর্যায়ে সেচ কাজে ভূ-উপরিস্থ পানির সহনীয় পর্যায়ে ব্যবহার নিশ্চিতকরণ;
- ৭) কৃষি উৎপাদন কার্যক্রমের জন্য ব্যবহৃত সেচযন্ত্র সমূহে সেচকালে নিরবিচ্ছিন্নভাবে বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ নিশ্চিতকরণ;
- ৮) পানি সংরক্ষণ ও ব্যবহারের জন্য বর্ধিতহারে সেচপ্রযুক্তি উন্নয়ন ও প্রয়োগে উৎসাহিতকরণ; এবং
- ৯) লাগসই সেচপ্রযুক্তির প্রসার এবং বৃষ্টিনির্ভর এলাকায় খরা মোকাবেলার জন্য পরিপূরক পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ।

১.১.৩. কৃষি উপকরণের প্রাপ্যতা এবং তার দক্ষ ব্যবহার

গ্রহণযোগ্য মূল্যে সময়মত উন্নতমানের কৃষি উপকরণের প্রাপ্যতা ও তার দক্ষ ব্যবহারের উপর খাদ্য উৎপাদন বহুলাংশে নির্ভরশীল। কৃষি উপকরণের প্রাপ্যতা এবং তার দক্ষ ব্যবহার নিশ্চিতকল্পে সরকার নিম্নোক্ত কার্যাবলী গ্রহণ করবে :

- ১) শস্য ও মৎস্য চাষে প্রয়োজনীয় উপকরণের সরবরাহ ঘাটতি ও উচ্চহারে মূল্যবৃদ্ধি রোধকল্পে সারসহ অন্যান্য উপকরণের পর্যাপ্ত পরিমাণে সময়মত ও সুষম বন্টন নিশ্চিতকরণ;
- ২) সারের সুষম ব্যবহার নিশ্চিতকল্পে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ মূল্যনীতি প্রণয়ন;
- ৩) বীজ খাতে বেসরকারী বিনিয়োগ উৎসাহিতকরণ;
- ৪) বিশেষ ক্ষেত্রে বীজ আমদানি উদারীকরণের বিষয়টি নিশ্চিতকরণ ;
- ৫) বীজ, কৃষি-রাসায়নিক দ্রব্য ও সারের মান-নিয়ন্ত্রণের ক্ষেত্রে বিধি প্রণয়ন এবং তার যথাযথ প্রয়োগ নিশ্চিতকরণ;
- ৬) কৃষক, মৎস্য চাষী এবং ব্যবসায়ীদের জন্য সার ও কৃষি রাসায়নিক দ্রব্যাদি ব্যবহার সম্পর্কিত প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যবস্থার মাধ্যমে উৎপাদিত পণ্যে trace element -এর পরিমাণ সীমিতকরণ ;
- ৭) শস্যক্ষেতে ব্যবহৃত কীটনাশক ব্যবহার সীমিতকরণের মাধ্যমে মৎস্য সম্পদের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি নিশ্চিতকরণ;
- ৮) ফসলের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধির জন্য সমন্বিত বালাই ব্যবস্থাপনা ও সমন্বিত ফসল ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্মসূচির প্রসার সাধন; এবং
- ৯) প্রাকৃতিক পদ্ধতিতে বালাই নিয়ন্ত্রণভিত্তিক "সমন্বিত বালাই ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্মসূচি (IPM)" জোরদারকরণ এবং বর্ধিতহারে জৈবসার ব্যবহারের মাধ্যমে পরিবেশসম্মত, টেকসই কৃষিব্যবস্থা ও সংরক্ষণ পদ্ধতি প্রচলন নিশ্চিতকল্পে পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ।

১.১.৪. কৃষি বহুমুখীকরণ, উন্নত প্রযুক্তি ও গবেষণা

খাদ্য লভ্যতার প্রাথমিক উপাদান হিসেবে অভ্যন্তরীণ খাদ্যশস্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি করা ছাড়াও অশস্য ফসল ও ফসল বহির্ভূত খাদ্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধিকল্পে কৃষিকে বহুমুখীকরণ, উন্নত কৃষি-প্রযুক্তি গবেষণা/সম্প্রসারণ এবং উত্তোলনোত্তর ক্ষয়ক্ষতি সীমিতকরণ গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। এ লক্ষ্যে সরকারের নীতি হবে :

- ১) অশস্য ফসল (বিশেষতঃ ডাল, তৈলবীজ, মসলা ও শাকসজি)-এর ক্ষেত্রে উন্নত প্রযুক্তির মাঠ পর্যায়ে ব্যবহার উল্লেখযোগ্যভাবে বৃদ্ধি করা;
- ২) মৌসুম, জাত এবং উত্তোলন প্রযুক্তি ব্যবহারের পর্যায়ভেদে ফলমূল, শাক-সজি ও মসলার উৎপাদন ভিন্নতর কারণে বাজারে সরবরাহ বেড়ে গেলে মাত্রাতিরিক্ত ক্ষতি ও অপচয় রোধে লাগসই ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ;
- ৩) খরাপ্রবণ এলাকায় বসবাসরত জনগোষ্ঠীর খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বৃদ্ধিকল্পে বৃষ্টিনির্ভর চাষাবাদে ব্যবহারের জন্য বন্যা ও খরা সহনশীল জাত চিহ্নিতকরণ এবং লবণাক্ততা সীমিতকরণের জন্য যথাযথ প্রযুক্তি উদ্ভাবন, উন্নয়ন ও প্রসার সাধন;
- ৪) অতি সম্প্রতি উৎপাদন পদ্ধতিতে প্রবর্তিত Genetically Modified (GM) শস্যজাতের মাধ্যমে উৎপাদিত খাদ্যের স্বাস্থ্যগত প্রভাব পরিধারণ; এবং
- ৫) সমন্বিত প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক সহযোগিতার মাধ্যমে এযাবৎ উদ্ভাবিত ফসল ও পশু-পাখীর ক্ষেত্রে উন্নতজাত উদ্ভাবনে জীবপ্রযুক্তি গবেষণা ও উন্নয়ন বিষয়ে আরও গুরুত্ব প্রদানসহ বেসরকারী সংস্থাসমূহকে বর্ধিতহারে সম্পৃক্তকরণ।

১.১.৪.১. খাদ্যশস্য বহির্ভূত (শাকসজি, তৈলবীজ, ডাল ও ফলমূল) ফসলের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি

খাদ্যশস্য বহির্ভূত ফসলের উৎপাদন প্রবৃদ্ধির শ্রুতিগতির প্রেক্ষাপটে খাদ্যশস্য বহির্ভূত ফসলের উৎপাদন ও উৎপাদনশীলতা দ্রুত বৃদ্ধিকল্পে এবং মূল্যের স্থিতিশীলতা আনয়নের লক্ষ্যে সরকার নিম্নোক্ত পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করবে :

- ১) খাদ্যশস্য বহির্ভূত ফসলের ক্ষেত্রে কৃষিতাত্ত্বিক গবেষণা এবং সম্প্রসারণ কার্যক্রমকে অধিকতর অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান;
- ২) সুদৃঢ় সম্প্রসারণ ও উপকরণ সেবা-সহায়তাপূর্ণ যথাযথ ব্যবস্থাপনা পদ্ধতিতে আধুনিক জাতের ফসল প্রবর্তন;
- ৩) খাদ্যশস্য-বহির্ভূত ফসলের উৎপাদন ত্বরান্বিত করার লক্ষ্যে সুসংগঠিত বিপণন সুবিধাসহ প্রক্রিয়াকরণ, সংরক্ষণ ব্যবস্থা ও গুদামজাতকরণ ইত্যাদির উন্নয়ন;
- ৪) মৌসুমী ফলমূল, শাকসজি, মৎস্য ও পশুজাত পণ্যসহ অন্যান্য ফসলের উত্তোলনোত্তর পর্যায়ে উন্নত প্রযুক্তি প্রসারের জন্য বিনিয়োগ সহায়তা ও কৃষকদের প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান; এবং
- ৫) জীবপ্রযুক্তি গবেষণায় সহায়তা প্রদানসহ স্বাস্থ্যের উপর GM খাদ্যের স্বল্প ও দীর্ঘমেয়াদী প্রভাব পরিধারণ।

১.১.৪.২. শস্য বহির্ভূত (পশুসম্পদ ও মৎস্য সম্পদ) কৃষি উন্নয়ন

সুখম খাদ্যভোগের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় দুধ, মাংস ও ডিমের উৎস হচ্ছে পশুসম্পদ। দেশের সামগ্রিক খাদ্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি ত্বরান্বিত করার জন্য পশুসম্পদ ও মৎস্য খাতে বর্ধিত হারে উৎপাদনকে এক্ষেত্রে অন্যতম নির্ধারক হিসেবে বিবেচনা করা হয়। দেশের খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা এবং বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা অর্জনে পশুসম্পদ ও মৎস্য এ দুটি খাতের প্রয়োজনীয়তা বিবেচনান্তে সরকার নিম্নোক্ত কার্যক্রমসমূহ গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি ও উন্নয়ন সাধনে উৎসাহ প্রদান করবে :

- ১) গবেষণা, প্রশিক্ষণ ও সম্প্রসারণ শক্তিশালীকরণের মাধ্যমে মৎস্য ও পশুসম্পদের গুণগতমান ও উৎপাদনশীলতা বৃদ্ধি;

- ২) ব্যাপকহারে টিকা প্রদানের মাধ্যমে সংক্রামক রোগসহ পরজীবী ক্ষত নিয়ন্ত্রণ, হাঁস-মুরগি ও গবাদি পশুর স্বাস্থ্যসেবা উন্নয়ন এবং আদি প্রজাতিসমূহের সংরক্ষণ নিশ্চিতকরণ;
- ৩) মৎস্য ও পশুসম্পদের জন্য মৎস্য ও পশু খাদ্য (fish, poultry and livestock feed) উৎপাদন শিল্প উন্নয়নে সহায়তা প্রদান;
- ৪) মৎস্য ও পশুজাত পণ্যের উৎপাদন প্রযুক্তি ও উপকরণ সরবরাহ, পণ্য সংরক্ষণ ও বিপণনে উন্নত প্রযুক্তির প্রসারের জন্য বিনিয়োগ সহায়তা, বিপণন নেটওয়ার্ক সম্প্রসারণ;
- ৫) স্বল্প-সম্পদশালী ও দরিদ্রদের ক্ষেত্রে বেসরকারী সংস্থাসমূহকে বর্ধিতহারে সম্পৃক্তকরণপূর্বক প্রযুক্তি উন্নয়ন ও প্রসারে সহায়তা প্রদান;
- ৬) ধান ক্ষেতে সমষ্টিগতভাবে মাছ ও ধান যৌথ উৎপাদনের প্রসার নিশ্চিতকরণ ;
- ৭) পরিবেশবান্ধব ও বিজ্ঞানসম্মত চিংড়ি উৎপাদন ও প্রক্রিয়াকরণে উৎস পর্যায়ে উন্নতমান নিশ্চিতকরণসহ বর্ধিত উৎপাদন উৎসাহিতকরণ; এবং
- ৮) সামুদ্রিক মৎস্য সম্পদের টেকসই আহরণের কৌশল উদ্ভাবন ও সম্প্রসারণ।

১.১.৫. কৃষিক্ষণ

অভ্যন্তরীণ উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধিকল্পে সম্পদ-নিবিড় আধুনিক প্রযুক্তি গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে উৎপাদনশীলতা বৃদ্ধিকল্পে কৃষিকে নিবিড় ও বহুমুখীকরণে কৃষিক্ষণের ভূমিকা অপরিহার্য। কৃষকদের জন্য কৃষিক্ষণের লভ্যতা ও প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিকল্পে অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপসহ সরকার নিম্নোক্ত পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করবে :

- ১) যথাসময়ে কৃষিক্ষণের প্রাপ্যতা নিশ্চিতকল্পে ঋণ সরবরাহের যথাযথ প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক পদ্ধতি প্রবর্তন; এবং
- ২) ভূমিহীন, প্রান্তিক ও ক্ষুদ্র কৃষকসহ সকল কৃষকের জন্য ঋণপ্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা উন্নয়নের মাধ্যমে পারিবারিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা ও উৎপাদনশীলতা বৃদ্ধির জন্য দরিদ্র কৃষকদেরকে কৃষি উৎপাদন সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কমসূচীর অন্তর্ভুক্তিকরণ।

কৌশল - ১.২. দক্ষ খাদ্য বাজার

খাদ্য বাজারের সন্তোষজনক অবস্থানের ক্ষেত্রে চাহিদা, উৎপাদনের ধারা, প্রযুক্তি এবং বিশ্ববাণিজ্যের পরিবেশের পরিবর্তনের সাথে অভ্যন্তরীণ খাদ্য বাজার কাঠামোকে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ করা প্রয়োজন। বিরাজমান বাজার কাঠামোর দক্ষতা নিরূপণের ক্ষেত্রে ন্যূনতম মূল্যে বাজারজাতকরণ দায়িত্ব সম্পাদনসহ বাজার পরিবেশ পরিবর্তনের সাথে চাহিদা ও যোগানের সংবেদনশীলতার বিষয়সমূহ বিবেচ্য। খাদ্যবাজারে অসংখ্য ক্রেতা ও বিক্রেতা থাকা সত্ত্বেও ব্যাপক এলাকাজুড়ে ছড়িয়ে থাকা ক্ষুদ্র উৎপাদনকারীগণের আগমন, অনুন্নত পরিবহন ও যোগাযোগ ব্যবস্থা, খাদ্যের পরিবহনে আনুষ্ঠানিক বা আনুষ্ঠানিক প্রতিবন্ধকতা, ত্রুটিপূর্ণ পণ্যবিন্যাস (grading) ইত্যাদি বিষয় প্রতিযোগিতামূলক বাজার পরিবেশ সৃষ্টিকে ব্যাহত করেছে। বাজার অবকাঠামো উন্নয়ন, বেসরকারী বাণিজ্যে অবাধ চলাচল ও গুদামজাতকরণ, বিপণন কার্যাবলীর জন্য প্রয়োজনবোধে বেসরকারী খাতকে উৎসাহদায়ক সুবিধাদি ও প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক সহায়তা প্রদান ইত্যাদি বাজার পরিবেশের উন্নয়নের জন্য অত্যাৱশ্যকীয়। খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা অর্জনের লক্ষ্যে বাজার ব্যবস্থা উন্নয়নে পক্ষপাতমুক্ত ঋণ, বিপণন সহায়ক আইন ও বাণিজ্য অনুকূল নিয়ন্ত্রণমূলক পরিবেশ এবং মূল্য স্থিতিশীলকরণের জন্য খাদ্যশস্য বাজারে অনুকূল সরকারী হস্তক্ষেপ অন্তর্ভুক্ত।

১.২.১. বাজার অবকাঠামো উন্নয়ন

যথোপযুক্ত মানসম্মত এবং নির্ভরযোগ্য বাজার অবকাঠামোই হচ্ছে সামগ্রিক অর্থনীতি এবং বাণিজ্যের টেকসই প্রবৃদ্ধির মৌলিক নিয়ামক। জাতীয় খাদ্য নিরাপত্তায় বেসরকারী খাতের অবদান রাখার সুযোগ সৃষ্টির জন্য পরিবহণ সুবিধা, গুদামজাতকরণ, অবকাঠামো ইত্যাদিতে দীর্ঘমেয়াদী বিনিয়োগ সহায়তা প্রদান প্রয়োজন। বাজার সুবিধাদি যেমন - বিক্রির জন্য যথোপযুক্ত স্থান, নিলাম কক্ষ, ওজনযন্ত্র ইত্যাদি খাদ্য বাজারের দক্ষতা উন্নয়নে নিমিত্তস্বরূপ।

দক্ষ খাদ্য বাজার অবকাঠামো উন্নয়ন ও সংরক্ষণের জন্য সরকার নিম্নের কার্যাবলী সম্পাদন করবে :

- ১) ফসল উত্তোলন পরবর্তী পর্যায়ে পরিচর্যা, পণ্যবিন্যাস, একত্রীকরণ এবং প্রক্রিয়াজাতকরণ সুবিধাদি উন্নয়ন ও অপচয় হ্রাসের মাধ্যমে খামারজাত পণ্যাদি বাজারজাতকরণের বিভিন্ন পর্যায়ে লাগসই প্রযুক্তি সহযোগে অবকাঠামোগত সুবিধাদি সম্প্রসারণ;
- ২) খামারজাত পণ্য বিপণনের বিভিন্ন পর্যায়ে সংরক্ষণ ও প্রক্রিয়াজাতকরণ সুবিধাদি উন্নয়নে সমবায়ভিত্তিক বিপণন ব্যবস্থা গঠনে উৎসাহ প্রদান ও উন্নয়ন;
- ৩) যথোপযুক্ত স্থানে খাদ্য প্রক্রিয়াকরণ ও সংরক্ষণের জন্য স্থাপনা প্রতিষ্ঠায় উদ্যোক্তাদেরকে বর্ধিতহারে মূলধন ও ঋণ, সহায়তা প্রদান;
- ৪) যথোপযুক্ত স্থানে প্রাথমিক ও মাধ্যমিক বাজার উন্নয়নে সহায়তা প্রদান; এবং
- ৫) খামার ও বাজারের সংযুক্তি সড়কের উন্নয়ন এবং অন্যান্য সেবামূলক সহায়তা নিশ্চিতকরণ।

১.২.২. বেসরকারী খাদ্য ব্যবসা উৎসাহিতকরণ

দেশে বেসরকারী খাতে খাদ্য ব্যবসায় লক্ষাধিক খুচরা ও পাইকারী ব্যবসায়ী এবং মিল মালিকগণ ক্রয়, প্রক্রিয়াজাতকরণ, সংরক্ষণ, পরিবহন এবং বিপণনে নিয়োজিত। অভ্যন্তরীণ ও রপ্তানী বাজারের চাহিদামাফিক কাজিত সরবরাহ নিশ্চিতকরণের জন্য আধুনিক ছাঁটাই, পরিচ্ছন্নকরণ, বাছাই ও মোড়কজাতকরণ পদ্ধতির উন্নয়ন প্রয়োজন।

বেসরকারী খাতে খাদ্য ব্যবসা উৎসাহিতকরণে সরকার নিম্নের কার্যাবলী সম্পাদন করবে :

- ১) বেসরকারী খাদ্য বিপণন, প্রক্রিয়াজাতকরণ, বাছাই ও মজুদ সংরক্ষণে যথোপযুক্ত উৎসাহদায়ক ব্যবস্থা বজায় থাকবে;
- ২) প্রয়োজনের সময় শুল্কহার সমন্বয় ও অন্যান্য প্রশাসনিক সহায়তা প্রদানের মাধ্যমে আমদানি উৎসাহিতকরণ এবং অভ্যন্তরীণ উৎপাদনে বিরূপ প্রভাবকারী অতিরিক্ত আমদানি পরিহারের মাধ্যমে ক্ষতিকর প্রভাব সীমিতকরণ; এবং
- ৩) উদ্বৃত্ত উৎপাদন ও সরবরাহকালীন সময়ে কৃষি পণ্যের রপ্তানী বৃদ্ধি উৎসাহিতকরণ।

১.২.২.১. খাদ্যদ্রব্যের বেসরকারী গুদাম এবং চলাচল ব্যবস্থা উন্নয়ন

বেসরকারী খাতে বিদ্যমান গুদামজাতকরণ সুবিধাদি খাদ্যশস্য এবং অন্যান্য খাদ্যদ্রব্য দীর্ঘমেয়াদে সংরক্ষণের উপযোগী নয়। এজন্য মানসম্মত বিজ্ঞানভিত্তিক সংরক্ষণাগার নির্মিত হওয়া প্রয়োজন। নির্ধারিত দ্রব্যভিত্তিক গুদাম ও হিমাগার নির্মাণ এবং পরিবহনের জন্য যানবাহন সংগ্রহ ইত্যাদিতে বেসরকারী খাতে ঋণ সুবিধাদি প্রদানে ব্যাংক আইন সহজীকরণ ও সংশোধনের মাধ্যমে সরকারের নীতি উৎসাহদায়ক হবে। বেসরকারী পর্যায়ে খাদ্যদ্রব্য গুদামজাতকরণ ও চলাচল উন্নয়নে সরকার :

- ১) দেশে খাদ্যদ্রব্যের অবাধ চলাচল উদারীকরণ ও
- ২) উপযুক্ত স্থানে গুদাম কাঠামো উন্নয়নে ঋণ সুবিধাদি নিশ্চিত করবে।

১.২.২.২. খাদ্য ব্যবসায় উদার ঋণ (Liberal Credit) পদ্ধতি জোরদারকরণ

উন্নত বাজার কাঠামো প্রতিষ্ঠার গুরুত্বপূর্ণ পূর্বশর্ত হচ্ছে খাদ্য ব্যবসায় নবাগতদের অংশগ্রহণ বৃদ্ধি ও তাদের ঋণ প্রাপ্তিতে বাধা-নিষেধ হ্রাস। খাদ্য বিপণনে উদার ঋণ বিতরণ পদ্ধতি জোরদারকরণের মাধ্যমে অধিক উৎপাদনজনিত বাজারজাতকরণের সংশ্লিষ্ট অনেক সমস্যাই দূরীকরণ সম্ভব।

খাদ্য ব্যবসায় ঋণের প্রাপ্যতা নিশ্চিতকরণের জন্য বাংলাদেশ সরকার -

- ১) পরামর্শ এবং পরিবীক্ষণ সেবার মাধ্যমে উদার ঋণ বিতরণ পদ্ধতি জোরদার ও
- ২) পল্লী এবং দুর্গম এলাকায় ব্যাংকিং সুবিধাদি সম্প্রসারণে সহায়তা প্রদান করবে।

১.২.৩. বাণিজ্য সহায়ক আইন এবং নিয়ন্ত্রণমূলক পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন

বাজারকে বাণিজ্যসহায়ক বিধি-বিধানের আওতায় আনার ক্ষেত্রে বিভিন্ন প্রকার বিপণন আইনের ধারাসমূহ এবং কারবার প্রথা পুনর্বিন্যাসসহ বিপণন চার্জ, কর এবং শুল্ক যুক্তিসংগত করা ও বাজার উন্নয়ন নিশ্চিত করা প্রয়োজন। খামারজাত পণ্যের বিপণনে সেবাসমূহের দক্ষ সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থা খুবই গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। বিপণনে নিয়োজিত বিভিন্ন বিপণন-প্রতিনিধি, পাইকার, অনানুষ্ঠানিক বিনিয়োগকারী ও আর্থিক সহায়তা প্রদানকারী মধ্যস্থতাকারীদের অনুকূল ভূমিকাকে স্বীকৃতি প্রদান করা প্রয়োজন। বাজার কাঠামো উন্নয়নে নিয়ন্ত্রণমূলক ও আইনগত সহায়তা বাজারের প্রত্যেক পর্যায়ে নতুনদের প্রবেশ উৎসাহিত করার মাধ্যমে প্রতিযোগিতা বৃদ্ধিতে সহায়ক হবে।

বাণিজ্য সহায়ক আইন এবং নিয়ন্ত্রণমূলক পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন নিশ্চিতকল্পে সরকার নিম্নোক্ত পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করবে :

- ১) খাদ্যপণ্যের বেসরকারী মজুদ ও সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থার একটি নির্ভরযোগ্য পরিবীক্ষণ ব্যবস্থা চালুকরণ;
- ২) বাজারে নিয়োজিত মধ্যস্থতাকারীদের অনুকূল ভূমিকাকে স্বীকৃতি নিশ্চিতকরণ; এবং
- ৩) প্রতিযোগিতামূলক বিপণন প্রসারে এন্টি-ট্রাস্ট ও একচেটিয়া বাজার প্রতিষ্ঠা নিরোধক বিধি প্রণয়ন ও প্রয়োগ।

১.২.৪. পূর্ব-সতর্কীকরণ ও বাজার তথ্য পদ্ধতি উন্নয়ন এবং প্রচার

জাতীয় খাদ্য সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থাপনা এবং খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বিধানে একটি দক্ষ কার্যকর পূর্ব-সতর্কীকরণ ব্যবস্থা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ নিয়ামক। একটি দক্ষ ও কার্যকর পূর্ব-সতর্কীকরণ পদ্ধতি বিশ্ব পূর্ব-সতর্কীকরণ ব্যবস্থার সাথে সমন্বিতভাবে পরিচালিত হওয়া প্রয়োজন। এ লক্ষ্যে সরকার নিম্নোক্ত কার্যাবলী সম্পন্ন করবে :

- ১) জাতীয় ও বিশ্বপর্যায়ের উভয় ক্ষেত্রে সমন্বিতভাবে খাদ্য উৎপাদনের পরিমাণ সম্পর্কে আবহাওয়ার পূর্বাভাস সংক্রান্ত নির্ভরযোগ্য তথ্য পরিবেশন;
- ২) অভ্যন্তরীণ ও আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারসমূহে বিরাজমান সরবরাহ, চাহিদা ও মূল্য পরিস্থিতি এবং জলবায়ু, খাদ্য উৎপাদন ও বিদ্যমান সরবরাহ সম্পর্কে স্বল্প ও দীর্ঘকালীন পূর্বাভাস প্রদান; এবং

- ৩) উন্নত ব্যবস্থাপনার জন্য খাদ্য তথ্য ও পূর্ব-সতর্কীকরণ বিষয়ে বিশেষণমূলক ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধির জন্য গবেষণা পরিচালনা এবং প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ বিষয়ে উন্নত পূর্বাভাস পদ্ধতির প্রবর্তন।

কৌশল -১.৩. মূল্য স্থিতিশীলকরণে খাদ্যশস্য বাজারে অবিকৃত সরকারী হস্তক্ষেপ

খাদ্যশস্য বাজারে সরকারী হস্তক্ষেপ এবং খাদ্যশস্যের মজুত ব্যবস্থাপনার ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশ সরকার উৎপাদনকারী ও ভোক্তা উভয়ের স্বার্থরক্ষায় ভারসাম্য বজায় রাখার প্রচেষ্টা চালিয়ে যাচ্ছে, যাতে কৃষি প্রবৃদ্ধি বা দরিদ্র জনগণের খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা ব্যাহত না হয়। বিশেষতঃ বাংলাদেশের দরিদ্র জনগণের (উৎপাদক ও ভোক্তা) কল্যাণে খাদ্যশস্যের মূল্য একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ নিয়ামক। খাদ্যশস্যের উৎপাদন ব্যয়ের উর্দ্ধগতি কৃষকদের আয়ের অনিশ্চয়তা বৃদ্ধি করা ছাড়াও কৃষিকাজে অত্যাৱশ্যকীয় সেচ, কৃষি-যন্ত্রপাতি এবং অন্যান্য দীর্ঘমেয়াদী খাতে বেসরকারী বিনিয়োগে নিরুৎসাহিত করে। যেহেতু দরিদ্র পরিবারের খাদ্যের জন্য ব্যয় বর্তমানে পরিবারের মোট আয়ের শতকরা ৭০ ভাগেরও বেশী, তাই ভোক্তাপর্যায়ে খাদ্যের মূল্য উল্লেখযোগ্যভাবে বৃদ্ধি পেলে দরিদ্র পরিবারের প্রকৃত আয় হ্রাস পায়। ফলে তাদের খাদ্য গ্রহণের পরিমাণ হ্রাস পায়- যা তাদের জীবনের জন্য হুমকিস্বরূপ হতে পারে। বাজারের মূল্য স্থিতিশীলতাকে ত্বরান্বিতকরণ, প্রতিযোগিতা উৎসাহিতকরণ, খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা উন্নয়নে এবং বেসরকারী বাণিজ্য ও গুদামজাতকরণকে নিরুৎসাহিত না করে সরকার খাদ্যশস্য বাজারে অবিকৃত হস্তক্ষেপ কর্মসূচির পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করে। বিশেষতঃ আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে দ্রুত পরিবর্তন, অভ্যন্তরীণ উৎপাদনে হ্রাসবৃদ্ধি এবং উপর্যুপরি প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগের কারণে খাদ্যের মূল্য অব্যাহতভাবে স্থিতিশীল রাখা সহজ নয়। খাদ্যশস্যের মূল্যের ব্যাপক উঠানামার কারণে একটি অবিকৃত মূল্য স্থিতিশীলকরণ নীতি একান্ত আবশ্যিক।

১.৩.১. অভ্যন্তরীণ খাদ্য উৎপাদনে মূল্য সহায়তা

অভ্যন্তরীণ উৎপাদন ও কৃষকের আয় বৃদ্ধির জন্য পর্যাপ্ত উৎপাদন সহায়তা প্রদানে প্রধান সংগ্রহ অঞ্চলে (intensive procurement zone) খাদ্যশস্যের গড় উৎপাদন ব্যয়ের উর্দ্ধে খাদ্যশস্য সংগ্রহ মূল্য নির্ধারণপূর্বক সরকারী সংগ্রহের প্রচেষ্টা চালানো হয়। সরকারী সংগ্রহমূল্য (fixed procurement price)-এর সাথে গুদামখরচ, পরিবহন ও বিতরণ ব্যয় জড়িত থাকায় বিতরণ (public food distribution)-এর ক্ষেত্রে সরকারকে উল্লেখযোগ্য পরিমাণ ভর্তুকী প্রদান করতে হয়।

অভ্যন্তরীণ খাদ্য উৎপাদন উৎসাহিত করার জন্য সরকারের নীতি হবে :

- ১) অভ্যন্তরীণ খাদ্য বাজার হতে খাদ্যশস্য ক্রয়ে;
 - ক) কৃষকদের পর্যাপ্ত মুনাফা এবং উৎপাদন ব্যয় পরিপূরণের জন্য যথাযথ মূল্যে (তবে মূল্য এত বেশী না হয় যা অন্যান্য নীতি বিরোধী কাজ করাকে উৎসাহিত করে) অভ্যন্তরীণ সরকারী সংগ্রহ কর্মসূচি গ্রহণ;
 - খ) উন্মুক্ত প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে অভ্যন্তরীণ বাজার থেকে ক্রয়।
- ২) উৎপাদকের লাভজনক মূল্য নিশ্চিতকরণে বিপণন পদ্ধতি উন্নয়নে সহায়তা প্রদান; এবং
- ৩) বেসরকারী খাতে গুদামজাতকরণ ও বাজার অবকাঠামো উন্নয়নে উৎসাহ প্রদান করা।

১.৩.২. সরকারী খাদ্যশস্য মজুদ

অভ্যন্তরীণ উৎপাদন কমবেশী হবার ফলে খাদ্যশস্যের মূল্য অস্বাভাবিক হ্রাস-বৃদ্ধিকালে যুগপৎভাবে ভোক্তা ও উৎপাদনকারীর কল্যাণের বিষয়টি বিবেচনায় রেখে সরকার সরাসরি ক্রয়-বিক্রয়ের মাধ্যমে খাদ্যশস্য বাজারে হস্তক্ষেপ করে। সরকারী খাদ্য বিতরণ ব্যবস্থার প্রধান লক্ষ্য হল স্বাভাবিক বাজার মূল্যে খাদ্য ক্রয়ে অসমর্থ দরিদ্র জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য খাদ্য-সহায়ক উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচি এবং আয় সঞ্চালনমূলক কর্মসূচি পরিচালনা করা। খাদ্যভিত্তিক বিভিন্ন সরকারী কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় খাদ্যশস্যের মজুদ সংরক্ষণ করা ছাড়াও সরকার দুর্যোগকালীন জরুরী প্রয়োজন পরিপূরণের জন্য নিরাপত্তা মজুদ সংরক্ষণ করে। সাম্প্রতিক বছরসমূহে খাদ্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি অব্যাহত থাকা ছাড়াও খাদ্য ব্যবস্থাপনায় আশানুরূপ উন্নতি প্রতিফলিত হয়েছে। জাতীয় খাদ্য ও পুষ্টি নীতি (১৯৯৭)-তে সরকারী খাদ্য মজুদের পরিমাণ কমপক্ষে ৮ লাখ মেঃ টনে সংরক্ষণের নীতি ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে। খাদ্যশস্য আমদানির অনিশ্চিত আগমন ও জরুরী প্রয়োজনে সরকার ১০ লাখ মেঃ টন খাদ্যশস্য সরকারী মজুদ হিসাবে সংরক্ষণের সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করেছে। তবে অভ্যন্তরীণভাবে খাদ্যশস্য সংগ্রহ মৌসুমে সরকারী মজুদের পরিমাণ সাধারণত এ লক্ষ্যমাত্রা অতিক্রম করে এবং ফসল উত্তোলনপূর্ব সময়ে সরকারী মজুদের পরিমাণ লক্ষ্যমাত্রার নীচে থাকে। সংগ্রহ ও বিতরণের পরিবর্তন (dynamics) বিবেচনায় এনে খাদ্য মজুদ গড়নে বাস্তব অবস্থার প্রতিফলন থাকবে।

সরকারী খাদ্যশস্য মজুদ সংরক্ষণের ক্ষেত্রে সরকার নিম্নোক্ত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করবে :

- ১) খাদ্যশস্য মজুদের নিয়মিত পরিবীক্ষণ, খাদ্য মূল্য, খাদ্য সাহায্য প্রাপ্তির সম্ভাবনা, বেসরকারী আমদানি, অভ্যন্তরীণ উৎপাদন, সরকারী সংগ্রহ ও বিতরণ ইত্যাদি কার্যক্রম নিয়মিত পরিবীক্ষণ;
- ২) সরকারী খাদ্য ব্যবস্থাপনাকে সামগ্রিক বাণিজ্যনীতির সাথে সমন্বিত করে বিশেষতঃ খাদ্য সরবরাহ ঘাটতিকালে প্রয়োজনীয় বাজার সরবরাহ বৃদ্ধিমূলক কৌশল অবলম্বন;
- ৩) দরিদ্র জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য লক্ষ্যমুখী খাদ্য বিতরণ ব্যবস্থার স্বচ্ছন্দ প্রয়োগ, কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ সৃষ্টি, বেসরকারী খাদ্য ব্যবসায় উৎসাহদায়ক ব্যবস্থা সংরক্ষণ বিবেচনায় নিয়ে সরকারী খাদ্য সংগ্রহের পরিমাণ নির্ধারণ; এবং
- ৪) সংগ্রহ ও বিতরণের মৌসুমী পরিবর্তন বিবেচনায় রেখে অর্থবছরের শুরুর ১০ লাখ মেঃ টন খাদ্যশস্যের সরকারী মজুদ সংরক্ষণ।

১.৩.৩. ভোক্তাদের মূল্য সহায়তা

লক্ষ্যমুখী খাদ্য বিতরণ কর্মসূচিসমূহ দরিদ্র জনগণের পারিবারিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বৃদ্ধির অন্যতম নিয়ামক। সরকার দরিদ্র ও দুস্থ পরিবারসমূহের পারিবারিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বৃদ্ধির জন্য বিভিন্ন প্রকার কর্মসূচি যথা - দুস্থ জনগোষ্ঠীর উন্নয়ন (VGD), কাজের বিনিময়ে খাদ্য/অর্থ, দুস্থ জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য খাদ্য সহায়তা (VGF), শিক্ষার জন্য খাদ্য/অর্থ ইত্যাদি লক্ষ্যমুখী কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করে। সীমিত সম্পদের কারণে এসকল কার্যক্রমের আওতাবিহীন অথচ পুষ্টির দিক হতে ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ দরিদ্র পরিবারসমূহের খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বৃদ্ধি করার একটি বিকল্প কৌশল হচ্ছে বাজার মূল্যের অস্বাভাবিক বৃদ্ধি রোধ করা।

ভোক্তাদের মূল্য সহায়তা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে সরকার নিম্নোক্ত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করবে :

- ১) অস্বাভাবিক মূল্যবৃদ্ধির সময়ে খোলা বাজার বিক্রয় (OMS), স্বল্পমূল্যে/বিনামূল্যে খাদ্যশস্য সরবরাহ;
- ২) বিশেষ অগ্রাধিকার প্রাপ্ত গোষ্ঠীর জন্য অত্যাৱশ্যকীয় অগ্রাধিকার (EP), অন্যান্য অগ্রাধিকার (OP) এবং বৃহৎ কর্মসংস্থান শিল্প (LEI) ইত্যাদি বিতরণ খাতে নির্ধারিত মূল্যে খাদ্যশস্য বিক্রয়;
- ৩) উচ্চ মূল্যের কারণে পুষ্টি ঝুঁকিগ্রবণ দরিদ্র জনগণের মাঝে লক্ষ্যমুখী খাদ্য কার্যক্রমের মাধ্যমে খাদ্যশস্য সরবরাহ।

উদ্দেশ্য - ২. জনগণের ক্রয় ক্ষমতা এবং খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধি করা

পর্যাপ্ত খাদ্যশস্যের প্রাপ্যতা নিশ্চিতকরণে গৃহীত প্রচেষ্টায় সহায়তা প্রদান ছাড়াও সকল পরিবারের (বিশেষতঃ দরিদ্রদের) পারিবারিক খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধির জন্য বাংলাদেশ সরকার দুটি মুখ্য পন্থা অবলম্বন করে। প্রথমতঃ তাৎক্ষণিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার প্রয়োজন পরিপূরণের জন্য স্বল্প মেয়াদে খাদ্য প্রাপ্তি ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধির জন্য কতিপয় কর্মসূচির মাধ্যমে সরাসরি খাদ্য হস্তান্তর বা খাদ্য-সাহায্য নগদায়নের মাধ্যমে প্রাপ্ত অর্থ বিতরণ। দ্বিতীয়তঃ কর্মসংস্থানমূলক অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধির মাধ্যমে দীর্ঘ মেয়াদে দরিদ্র জনগণের খাদ্য প্রাপ্তি ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধি এবং খাদ্য সংগ্রহের সামর্থ্যসহ ক্রয় ক্ষমতা টেকসইভাবে উন্নীতকরণের জন্য নীতিমালা বাস্তবায়নে উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পে বিনিয়োগ। দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন কৌশল বাস্তবায়নের মাধ্যমে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার একটি প্রধান নিয়ামক হিসেবে খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির অর্থনৈতিক ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

কৌশল - ২.১. তাৎক্ষণিক অভিঘাত ব্যবস্থাপনা

বাংলাদেশে প্রায়ই বন্যা, সাইক্লোন এবং অন্যান্য প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগের কারণে সৃষ্ট আপদকালীন খাদ্য নিরাপত্তাহীনতা দূরীকরণে জরুরী প্রস্তুতির প্রয়োজন হয়। ক্ষতিগ্রস্তদের তাৎক্ষণিক দুর্দশা লাঘবের উদ্দেশ্যে জরুরী ত্রাণ কর্মসূচি পরিচালনা করা হয়। দুর্যোগ মোকাবেলায় আধুনিক ও নির্ভরযোগ্য সতর্কীকরণ পদ্ধতি ব্যবহারের মাধ্যম দুর্যোগের বিরূপ প্রভাব কমিয়ে আনা সম্ভব। দুর্যোগ মোকাবেলায় বাংলাদেশের উল্লেখযোগ্য সাফল্য সত্ত্বেও ব্যাপক দারিদ্রের কারণে প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগগ্রবণ এলাকায় দুর্বল অবকাঠামোতে বসবাসকারী দরিদ্র জনগোষ্ঠীকে দুর্যোগের বিরূপ প্রভাব সহনযোগ্য মাত্রা পর্যন্ত হ্রাস করা যায়নি। বর্তমানে জরুরী বিতরণের প্রয়োজনে সরকারকে তিন মাসের সমপরিমাণ খাদ্যশস্যের মজুত সংরক্ষণ এবং ত্রাণ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য জরুরী খাদ্য বিতরণসহ নিরাপদ পানি, ঔষধ এবং অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় দ্রব্যাদি সংরক্ষণ করতে হয়। এক্ষেত্রে দেশের জন্য একটি কার্যকর সার্বিক দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা পদ্ধতি পরিচালনা অপরিহার্য। তাছাড়া প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ প্রবণতাসহ স্থানীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে পরিবর্তনশীল পরিস্থিতির কারণে বহুর্ভিত্তিক খাদ্যশস্যের ন্যূনতম সরকারী মজুদ মাত্রাও পর্যালোচনা (review) প্রয়োজন।

২.১.১. কৃষিতে দুর্যোগ মোকাবেলার জন্য বিশেষ পদক্ষেপ

খরা, বন্যা ও সাইক্লোনের মত ঘন ঘন প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগের কারণে বাংলাদেশের কৃষি অতিমাত্রায় ঝুঁকিগ্রবণ। ঘন ঘন প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ দরিদ্র জনগণের সীমিত সম্পদকে হ্রাস করে এমনকি কখনও কখনও সম্পূর্ণভাবে ধ্বংস করে। নদী ভাংগন এবং কৃষি জমির গুণগত অবক্ষয়ের ফলে এ সমস্যা আরও প্রকট হয়। বন্যা ও খরাগ্রবণ অধিক ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ এলাকায় দারিদ্র্য এবং খাদ্য নিরাপত্তাহীনতা অধিক হয়ে থাকে। এসকল প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগের অভিঘাতে বৈরী কৃষি পরিবেশযুক্ত নাজুক বাস্তুসংস্থান সম্পন্ন দরিদ্র কৃষকদের চাষাবাদে অপূরণীয় ক্ষতি হয়। ফলে তাদের তাৎক্ষণিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তাহীনতা আরও বেড়ে যায়। দুর্যোগ প্রস্তুতি এবং দুর্যোগ-পরবর্তী পুনর্বাসন কার্যক্রম খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ উপাদান। কৃষিতে প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগের বিরূপ প্রভাব মোকাবেলার জন্য অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপসহ সরকার নিম্নোক্ত পদক্ষেপ অনুসরণ করবে :

- ১) বিপুল ফলন হ্রাস ও ফসলহানি এড়ানোর জন্য খরার সময় সম্পূরক সেচ প্রদান;
- ২) জাতীয় কৃষি গবেষণা পদ্ধতির মাধ্যমে সুনির্দিষ্ট এলাকাভিত্তিক বন্যা ও খরা সহনশীল জাতের ফসল উদ্ভাবন ও প্রসার এবং প্রধান ফসলসমূহের উৎপাদন প্রযুক্তি উন্নয়ন ও সম্প্রসারণ; এবং
- ৩) স্বাভাবিকভাবে বন্যামুক্ত বছরে ভিটিস্থানে ফলমূল শাকসজি চাষাবাদ, সামাজিক বনায়ন, পশুপালন এবং বসতবাড়ীতে হাঁস-মুরগী খামার স্থাপনসহ বসতবাড়ীতে বাগান উন্নয়নে কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ।

২.১.২. সরকারী মজুদ হতে জরুরী বিতরণ

প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগজনিত জরুরী খাদ্য পরিস্থিতির প্রয়োজনে সরকারী খাদ্য মজুদ হতে খাদ্য বিতরণের মাধ্যমে সরকার দ্রুত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করে। দুর্যোগকবলিত এলাকায় সরকারী বিতরণ খাদ্যের প্রাপ্যতা বৃদ্ধি করে এবং যোগান ও চাহিদার ভারসাম্যহীনতা নিরসনপূর্বক বাজার মূল্য স্থিতিশীল করতে সাহায্য করে।

দুর্যোগ কবলিত এলাকায় ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত পরিবারের জরুরী খাদ্য প্রয়োজন মেটাতে সরকারের নীতি হবে :

- ১) দুর্যোগের সময়ে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত পরিবারের মধ্যে দ্রুত খাদ্য বিতরণ নিশ্চিতকরণ;
- ২) নিয়মিত খাদ্যভিত্তিক কার্যক্রমের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় মজুদ সংরক্ষণ ছাড়াও ন্যূনপক্ষে ৩ (তিন) মাসের জরুরী খাদ্য বিতরণ চাহিদা পরিপূরণে খাদ্যশস্যের পর্যাপ্ত মজুদ সংরক্ষণ;
- ৩) কোন একটি নির্দিষ্ট দেশ থেকে খাদ্য আমদানির ক্ষেত্রে সম্ভাব্য ঝুঁকি হ্রাসের জন্য সরকারী বাণিজ্যিক আমদানি (তবে অধিক আমদানি পরিহারের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় সতর্কতা অবলম্বনসহ)-র ক্ষেত্রে উৎস বহুমুখীকরণ; এবং
- ৪) পদ্ধতিগত অপচয় হ্রাস এবং দক্ষ মজুদ ব্যবস্থাপনার মাধ্যমে সরকারের সার্বিক খাদ্য বিতরণ ব্যয় হ্রাসকরণ।

২.১.৩. বেসরকারী কারবার এবং মজুদের মাধ্যমে যোগান বৃদ্ধির পদক্ষেপ

খাদ্যশস্যের আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্যে বেসরকারী খাতের অংশগ্রহণ উদারীকরণের মাধ্যমে সরকার উৎপাদন ঘাটতিকালে স্থানীয় যোগানের স্বল্পতা মেটাতে বেসরকারী খাতে খাদ্যশস্যের আমদানি উৎসাহিত করে।

অভ্যন্তরীণ উৎপাদন ঘাটতি পরিপূরণে এবং অর্থনৈতিকভাবে খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিকল্পে বেসরকারী খাতের অংশগ্রহণ নিশ্চিতকল্পে সরকার :

- ১) খাদ্যের মজুদ এবং চলাচলে প্রতিবন্ধকতা অপসারণ নিশ্চিত করবে;
- ২) গুদামজাতকরণ এবং মজুদ সংরক্ষণের জন্য ঋণ সুবিধাদি প্রদান করবে;
- ৩) দক্ষ গুদামজাতকরণে এবং বিতরণ কৌশল উন্নয়নে সহায়তা প্রদান করবে;
- ৪) অস্বাভাবিকভাবে অভ্যন্তরীণ এবং আন্তর্জাতিক মূল্য বৃদ্ধিজনিত সমস্যা দূর করার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ক্ষেত্রে বাণিজ্য এবং আর্থিক নীতি গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে বেসরকারী আমদানি উৎসাহিত করবে; এবং
- ৫) বেসরকারীখাতের মাধ্যমে দ্রুত এবং দক্ষভাবে খাদ্য সরবরাহের জন্য সরকারী গুদাম ও অন্যান্য পরিচালন সুবিধাদি যৌক্তিক মূল্যে বেসরকারী পর্যায়ে ব্যবহারের সুযোগ প্রদান করবে।

কৌশল -২.২. খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা উন্নয়নে লক্ষ্যমুখী খাদ্য সহায়তা কর্মসূচির ফলপ্রদ বাস্তবায়ন

বহুরূপী চরম পুষ্টি ঝুঁকির সম্মুখীন অতিদরিদ্র জনগোষ্ঠীর বেসরকারী খাদ্যবাজার থেকে খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা অপরিপূর্ণ। অধিকন্তু, দেশের প্রায় অর্ধেক জনগোষ্ঠী দারিদ্র্যসীমার নীচে অবস্থান করায় অনেক পরিবারই মৌসুমী খাদ্য নিরাপত্তাহীনতার সম্মুখীন হয় অর্থাৎ তারা মন্দা মৌসুমে ক্ষুধা, অপুষ্টি ও বঞ্চনার শিকার হয়। অন্য পেশার জনগোষ্ঠীর মাঝে বিশেষ ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ হিসেবে দিন মজুর, জেলে এবং মাঝিগণও অন্তর্ভুক্ত। এ ছাড়াও সময়ের সাথে স্থান পরিবর্তনের কারণে দুস্থতায় পতিত এবং বেশীমাত্রায় পুষ্টি ঝুঁকির সম্মুখীন পরিবারসমূহ চিহ্নিতকরণপূর্বক একটি দক্ষ লক্ষ্যমুখী কর্মসূচি (স্বেচ্ছা সদস্যদের সুবিধা প্রদান না করে) পরিচালনার মাধ্যমে লক্ষ্য-জনগোষ্ঠীর প্রকৃত আয় ও খাদ্য ভোগের পরিমাণ বহুলাংশে বৃদ্ধি করা যায়। তাই একটি সফল লক্ষ্যমুখী কার্যক্রমে লক্ষ্যবহির্ভূত পরিবারের মাঝে বেহাত হওয়া (leakage) হ্রাস করা অপরিহার্য। বেহাতের ফলে লক্ষ্যমুখী হস্তক্ষেপের ব্যয় বৃদ্ধি পায় এবং ব্যয়-সাশ্রয় হ্রাস পায়। দুস্থ জনগোষ্ঠীর মাঝে শহর এলাকার বস্তিবাসী এবং গ্রামের ভূমিহীনরাই চরম দুর্ভোগের শিকার হয়। আয়ের সীমাবদ্ধতা এবং নিম্নমানের পয়ঃনিষ্কাশন ব্যবস্থার কারণে শহরের বস্তিবাসীদের পুষ্টিহীনতা খুবই প্রকট। গ্রামীণ দুস্থ জনগোষ্ঠীর মাঝে পুষ্টিহীনতা ভূমিহীন পরিবার ও তাদের পরিবারের সদস্যদের মধ্যে প্রকটভাবে বিস্তৃত। এছাড়া বৃদ্ধ, স্বামীবঞ্চিত, অসহায় বিধবা, প্রতিবন্ধী সদস্য নিয়ে গঠিত আরও কিছু দরিদ্র পরিবারের জন্য সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা বেট্টনী সম্প্রসারিত হওয়া দরকার।

ভৌগলিক নিশানা (geographic targeting)-র মাধ্যমে দেশের সুনির্দিষ্ট দুস্থ জনপূর্ণ এলাকাসমূহে লক্ষ্যমুখী হস্তক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করা হয়। এক্ষেত্রে কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগের অভাব, নিম্নমানের অবকাঠামো ও কৃষি উন্নয়ন এবং বিশেষভাবে প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগের প্রকোপ ইত্যাদি বিষয়ও অন্তর্ভুক্ত হতে পারে। এ সকল বিবেচনায় বন্যপ্রাণ এলাকা বিশেষতঃ প্রধান প্রধান নদী তীরবর্তী ভাংগন এলাকা এবং শহরের বস্তিসমূহ দেশের সবচেয়ে পুষ্টিগতভাবে দুস্থ এলাকা হিসেবে গণ্য। তাই বাংলাদেশ সরকার প্রকট পুষ্টিহীনতা বিরাজমান এমন জনগোষ্ঠী, অঞ্চল এবং মৌসুমে আয়-বন্টন, লক্ষ্যমুখী খাদ্য বিতরণ এবং গণপূর্ত কর্মসূচির মাধ্যমে লক্ষ্যমুখী কর্মসূচি গ্রহণ করে। দরিদ্র পরিবারের খাদ্যপ্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিকরণে সরকারী খাদ্য বিতরণ ব্যবস্থার আওতায় সরকার নিম্নলিখিত কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়ন করবে :

- ১) খাদ্য ও দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক পরিবারসমূহের মধ্যে সরাসরি জরুরী ত্রাণ বিতরণ;
- ২) দুস্থ জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য খাদ্য সরবরাহ (ভিজিএফ) কর্মসূচির আওতায় দুর্যোগ পরবর্তী সময়ে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত পরিবারের মধ্যে যৌক্তিক সময় পর্যন্ত লক্ষ্যমুখী খাদ্য বিতরণ;
- ৩) স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর, পানিসম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়, খাদ্য ও দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা মন্ত্রণালয় এবং অন্যান্য সংস্থা কর্তৃক পরিচালিত কাজের বিনিময়ে খাদ্য কর্মসূচির আওতায় পারিশ্রমিক হিসেবে খাদ্যশস্য বিতরণ;
- ৪) প্রশিক্ষণ ও উন্নয়ন কর্মকাণ্ডে অংশগ্রহণকারী দরিদ্র পরিবারের মধ্যে সরাসরি বিতরণ (যেমন - মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় পরিচালিত দুস্থ জনগোষ্ঠী উন্নয়ন -VGD কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়ন); এবং
- ৫) অতি দরিদ্র ও সুবিধাবঞ্চিত জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা বেট্টনীর সম্প্রসারণ ও ফলপ্রদ বাস্তবায়ন।

কৌশল -২.৩. কর্মসংস্থানমূলক আয় বৃদ্ধি

স্বল্পমেয়াদে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে বর্তমানে পরিচালিত সরকারী ও এনজিও কর্মসূচিসমূহ যদিও দরিদ্র পরিবারসমূহের বাড়তি খাদ্য প্রাপ্তি ও আয় বৃদ্ধিতে অবদান রাখছে, তবে দীর্ঘমেয়াদে শ্রমনিবিড় অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধিই দেশের সকল পরিবারের জন্য বিস্তৃত ভিত্তিতে পর্যাপ্ত খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির অধিকার নিশ্চিতকরণের প্রধান উপায় হতে পারে। যেহেতু দরিদ্র জনগোষ্ঠীর ভূমি ও মূলধনে প্রবেশাধিকার সীমিত, সেহেতু কর্মসংস্থান বৃদ্ধির বিষয়টিতে অধিক গুরুত্ব প্রদান করা উচিত। অধিকাংশ দরিদ্র জনগণ পল্লী এলাকায় বসবাসের কারণে বাংলাদেশে টেকসইভাবে পারিবারিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকরণের পূর্বশর্ত হচ্ছে গ্রামীণ অর্থনীতির দ্রুত প্রবৃদ্ধি। পরিবারপর্যায়ে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার মাত্রা উন্নয়নের জন্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ হল বিশেষ প্রশিক্ষণ কর্মসূচির ব্যবস্থা, মৌলিক সম্পদ (মহিলাদের খাস জমি প্রাপ্তি সুবিধাসহ) এবং বিশেষতঃ দরিদ্র মহিলাদের জন্য ঋণসুবিধা প্রদান। শস্য, পশুসম্পদ (পোল্ট্রিসহ) ও শস্য-বহির্ভূত পণ্য উৎপাদন ও বিপণন কার্যক্রমে (যার জন্য অভ্যন্তরীণ ও বৈদেশিক বাজারে চাহিদা বর্তমানে বিদ্যমান) মহিলাকেন্দ্রিক উদ্যোগসমূহ অগ্রাধিকার পাবে। বাংলাদেশ সরকার দরিদ্র জনগোষ্ঠীর আয়বৃদ্ধির জন্য বহু উন্নয়নমূলক নীতি ও প্রকল্প হাতে নিয়েছে তন্মধ্যে উল্লেখযোগ্য হলঃ

- ১) মহিলা ও প্রতিবন্ধীদের জন্য আয়বৃদ্ধিমূলক কর্মকাণ্ডে সহায়তা প্রদান;
- ২) কর্মসংস্থান বৃদ্ধিকরণ প্রযুক্তিতে বিনিয়োগ উৎসাহিত করা;
- ৩) কৃষিভিত্তিক শিল্প উন্নয়নে উৎসাহদায়ক সুবিধা প্রদান;
- ৪) গ্রামীণ শিল্পের প্রসারে বিশেষ সহায়তা;
- ৫) শিক্ষা ও দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন বিষয়ক কর্মসূচি; এবং
- ৬) ব্যাপকভিত্তিক প্রবৃদ্ধি প্রসারে সামষ্টিক নীতি গ্রহণ।

২.৩.১. মহিলা ও প্রতিবন্ধীদের জন্য আয়বৃদ্ধিমূলক কর্মকাণ্ডে সহায়তা

খাদ্য নিরাপত্তায় মহিলাদের অবদান প্রায়শই মূল্যায়িত হয় না। তারা পরিবারের খাদ্য ও পুষ্টির উৎস সংগতিপূর্ণভাবে বজায় রাখার জন্য সর্বদা প্রাণান্ত চেষ্টারত। পরিবারের কল্যাণে ক্রমবর্ধমান দায়িত্বশীলতার কারণে পারিবারিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকরণে নারীরা কার্যকর মাধ্যম (effective vehicle) হিসেবে বিবেচিত। অন্তঃপরিবার খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বিধান এবং পরিবারের প্রতিটি সদস্যের পুষ্টিবস্থা নির্ধারণে নারীরা কেন্দ্রীয় ভূমিকা পালন করে।

উৎপাদনপূর্বক সম্পদের প্রাপ্তি সুবিধাসহ উপকরণ ও সেবামূলক সহায়তা প্রদানের মাধ্যমে ক্রমবর্ধমান অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে মহিলাদের অধিকহারে অন্তর্ভুক্তিসহ নারীভিত্তিক উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচি প্রবর্তন করা প্রয়োজন। সম্প্রসারণ সেবা, বৃত্তিমূলক শিক্ষা, ঋণ এবং প্রযুক্তিতে নারীদের প্রবেশাধিকার কম। অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়ন ও খাদ্য নিরাপত্তায় প্রতিবন্ধী ও মহিলাদের অধিকতর অবদানের এসব প্রতিবন্ধকতা দূরীকরণে সরকার দৃঢ় প্রতিজ্ঞ।

এ সকল বিষয়ে সহায়তা প্রদানের জন্য সরকারের লক্ষ্য হবে -

- ১) কৃষিখাতে সকল উন্নয়ন কর্মকাণ্ডে মহিলাদের অংশগ্রহণ প্রসার এবং গ্রামীণ মহিলাদের উৎপাদনশীলতা বৃদ্ধির জন্য গ্রামীণ কৃষি উৎপাদন, প্রক্রিয়াজাতকরণ এবং বিপণন কর্মকাণ্ডে সুযোগ এবং কৌশল সরবরাহ;
- ২) প্রতিবন্ধী ও নারীনির্ভর লক্ষ্যমুখী প্রশিক্ষণ কর্মসূচি এবং ঋণ, নতুন প্রযুক্তিসহ উৎপাদনশীলতা বৃদ্ধিক্ষম সম্পদের উপর মহিলাদের নিয়ন্ত্রণ এবং প্রবেশাধিকার নিশ্চিতকরণ;
- ৩) অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে মহিলাদের অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য নারীসম্পৃক্ত প্রকল্প ও কর্মসূচি প্রবর্তন; এবং
- ৪) পারিবারিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা শক্তিশালীকরণের জন্য মহিলাদের সামর্থ্য বৃদ্ধিতে যথাযথ সহায়ক উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ।

২.৩.২. কর্মসংস্থান বৃদ্ধিমূলক প্রযুক্তিতে বিনিয়োগ

প্রযুক্তি উৎপাদনশীলতা বৃদ্ধি করে কিন্তু তা সাধারণত মূলধননিবিড় এবং শ্রমিক প্রতিস্থাপক হয়ে থাকে। এরূপ অবস্থা সচরাচর হয় না। তবুও উৎপাদন পদ্ধতির সাথে শ্রম নিবিড় প্রযুক্তির সমন্বয় ঘটে এমন প্রযুক্তির নির্বাচন বাঞ্ছনীয় হওয়া উচিত। উদাহরণস্বরূপ উচ্চ-ফলনশীল ধান চাষাবাদের উল্লেখ করা যায়। অভ্যন্তরীণ ও আন্তর্জাতিকভাবে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক উৎপাদনের জন্য উপযুক্ত প্রযুক্তি গ্রহণ ও উন্নয়নের কোন বিকল্প নেই। শিক্ষা ও দক্ষতার অভাব প্রায়শঃই উপযুক্ত প্রযুক্তি গ্রহণে বাধা হয়ে দাঁড়ায়।

২.৩.৩. কৃষিভিত্তিক শিল্প উন্নয়নে উৎসাহদায়ক সুবিধা

কৃষিভিত্তিক শিল্পের উন্নয়ন বহুমুখী কৃষিকে পশ্চাদযোগ্য শিল্পে পরিণত করে গ্রামীণ দরিদ্রদের আয় বাড়াতে সাহায্য করে। কৃষিভিত্তিক শিল্পের বর্তমান অনগ্রসরতার প্রেক্ষাপটে এখাতে ঋণসহ আর্থিক সুবিধাভিত্তিক বিশেষ উৎসাহমূলক সহায়তা প্রদান করা প্রয়োজন। কৃষিভিত্তিক শিল্পের প্রবৃদ্ধির স্বার্থে যথোপযুক্ত প্রযুক্তি উন্নয়ন সহায়তাসহ গ্রামীণ বাজারের সাথে শহর, আঞ্চলিক ও বিশ্ববাজারের সাথে যোগসূত্র স্থাপন, পরিবহন ও প্রক্রিয়াজাতকরণ সুবিধাদির সহজলভ্যতা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ।

২.৩.৪. গ্রামীণ শিল্পের প্রসারে বিশেষ সহায়তা

গ্রামীণ শিল্পের প্রসারের স্বার্থে (বিশেষতঃ যে সকল এলাকা এক্ষেত্রে পশ্চাৎপদ) যথাযথ উৎসাহমূলক সহায়তা কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা উচিত। প্রয়োজনীয় ক্ষেত্রে ক্ষুদ্র গ্রামীণ উদ্যোক্তাদের জন্য বিশেষ প্রণোদনামূলক সরকারী সহায়তা (যথা- গ্রামীণ ও ক্ষুদ্র বীমা পদ্ধতিতে আংশিক প্রিমিয়াম সহায়তা) প্রদান করার মাধ্যমে সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কার্যক্রম উল্লেখযোগ্য ভূমিকা রাখতে পারে। এক্ষেত্রে মহিলা পরিচালনাধীন শ্রমনিবিড় গৃহভিত্তিক উদ্যোগকে বিশেষ অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা দরকার।

২.৩.৫. শিক্ষা, দক্ষতা এবং মানব সম্পদ উন্নয়ন

মৌলিক ও ব্যবহারিক শিক্ষা হচ্ছে প্রযুক্তি গ্রহণের পূর্বশর্ত। শিক্ষা ও দক্ষতা উন্নয়নের জন্য সরকারী এবং বেসরকারী খাতে বর্তমানে পরিচালিত কর্মসূচিসমূহকে শ্রমবাজারের চাহিদার ভিত্তিতে মূল্যায়ন করা উচিত। এক্ষেত্রে বিদেশে দক্ষ জনশক্তি রপ্তানি সম্ভাবনা অন্বেষণসহ জাতীয় অর্থনীতির প্রয়োজনে দক্ষ শ্রমিকের প্রকারভেদে বাজার চাহিদা ও কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ নির্ধারণকল্পে একটি জরিপ পরিচালনা করা আবশ্যিক।

২.৩.৬. শ্রমনিবিড় প্রবৃদ্ধির প্রসারে সামষ্টিক নীতি গ্রহণ

অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি স্বয়ংক্রিয়ভাবে সকলের আয়ের নিশ্চয়তা প্রদান করে না। সামষ্টিক অর্থনীতির মূল প্রতিপাদ্য হচ্ছে দরিদ্র জনগোষ্ঠীর শ্রমবাজার সৃষ্টিসহ আত্ম-কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ সৃষ্টি। দরিদ্র জনগোষ্ঠীর দ্রুত আয় বৃদ্ধিই সরকারী নীতির মূল লক্ষ্য হওয়া উচিত। আর এজন্য গ্রামীণ অর্থনৈতিক অবস্থার দ্রুত উন্নয়নের জন্য নীতিমালা প্রণয়ন, ক্ষুদ্রঋণসহ অন্যান্য ঋণসুবিধা, ভূমি ও মূলধনে দরিদ্র জনগণের ক্ষমতায়নের সুযোগ বৃদ্ধি করা প্রয়োজন - যা প্রকারান্তরে সমাজের বয়োঃবৃদ্ধ, দুস্থ-মহিলা, ও প্রতিবন্ধী জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য বিকল্প সামাজিক নিরাপত্তামূলক ব্যবস্থা হিসেবে ভূমিকা রাখবে।

উদ্দেশ্য -৩. সকলের (বিশেষতঃ নারী ও শিশুর) জন্য পর্যাপ্ত পুষ্টি বিধান

খাদ্যশস্যের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধিসহ আপদকালীন ঘাটতি ও অভিঘাত মোকাবেলায় বাংলাদেশ উল্লেখযোগ্যভাবে সফল হলেও দেশের এক বৃহৎ জনগোষ্ঠীর মাঝে পুষ্টি সমস্যা প্রকটভাবে বিদ্যমান। অন্যান্য কর্মসূচির সাথে সরকার জাতীয় খাদ্য ও পুষ্টিনীতি (১৯৯৭) এবং পুষ্টি সম্পর্কিত জাতীয় কর্মপরিকল্পনা (১৯৯৭) অনুমোদন করেছে। জাতীয় পুষ্টি পরিষদ সক্রিয়করণসহ বৃহৎ পরিসরে পুষ্টি এবং খাদ্য ব্যবহারের সমস্যা সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়াদি বিবেচনায় সরকার জাতীয় পুষ্টি প্রকল্প গ্রহণ করেছে। জাতিসংঘ সহস্রাব্দ উন্নয়ন লক্ষ্যের আলোকে প্রণীত দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন কৌশলপত্রও পুষ্টি বিষয়কে অন্যতম এজেন্ডা হিসেবে গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে। মানব সম্পদ উন্নয়নের ক্ষেত্রে পুষ্টিকে সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার হিসেবে সরকার গ্রহণ করেছে। এক্ষেত্রে সুদূরপ্রসারী লক্ষ্য হচ্ছে দেশের সামগ্রিক উন্নয়ন প্রক্রিয়ায় পুষ্টি বিষয়ক কর্মসূচিসমূহকে কার্যকরভাবে অঙ্গীভূতকরণ। খাদ্যের ব্যবহার এবং পুষ্টি, বিশেষতঃ দুস্থ ব্যক্তির (দরিদ্র মহিলা, শিশু ও প্রতিবন্ধী) জন্য পর্যাপ্ত মুখ্য পুষ্টি উপাদানসমৃদ্ধ (ক্যালরী, আমিষ, চর্বি ও তেল) খাদ্য ভোগ, মাইক্রোনিউট্রিয়েন্ট সমৃদ্ধ সম্পূরক খাদ্য কর্মসূচি, পুষ্টি শিক্ষা ও তথ্য বিতরণ সার্বিক পুষ্টি অবস্থা উন্নয়নে ভূমিকা রাখে। সর্বোপরি রোগ প্রতিরোধ ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ, পানি এবং পয়ঃনিষ্কাশন ব্যবস্থার বাইরে বৃহৎ পরিসরে স্বাস্থ্য সুবিধা উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচিও অন্তর্ভুক্ত করা আবশ্যিক।

কৌশল ৩.১. স্বাস্থ্যসমৃদ্ধ জাতি গঠনে সুসম খাদ্যের সংস্থানকল্পে সুদূরপ্রসারী জাতীয় পরিকল্পনা

উন্নত জাতি হিসেবে দেশকে গড়ে তুলতে দৈহিক, মানসিক ও বুদ্ধিবৃত্তিক সামর্থ্যসম্পন্ন মানব সম্পদের উন্নয়ন আবশ্যিক। দেশের অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি, পারিবারিক আয়ের পরিবর্তন তথা সার্বিক আর্থ-সামাজিক পরিবর্তনের সাথে সংগতিপূর্ণভাবে খাদ্য চাহিদার পরিবর্তন বিবেচনায় নিয়ে খাদ্য উৎপাদন ও বাজারজাতকরণ সংশ্লিষ্ট পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ বাঞ্ছনীয়। স্বাস্থ্যসমৃদ্ধ জাতি গঠনে খাদ্যাভ্যাস পরিবর্তনের নিমিত্তে চালের উপর নির্ভরতা ক্রমান্বয়ে কমিয়ে এনে সুসম খাদ্যের সংস্থানকল্পে সুদূরপ্রসারী জাতীয় পরিকল্পনা বাস্তবায়নে সরকার নিম্নোক্ত উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করবে :

৩.১.১. স্বাস্থ্যসমৃদ্ধ জাতি গঠনে শারীরিক সামর্থ্যের প্রয়োজনে সুদূরপ্রসারী লক্ষ্যমাত্রা নির্ধারণ

- ১) সার্বিক পরিবর্তনের সাথে সংগতিপূর্ণভাবে শারীরিক সামর্থ্যের প্রয়োজনে সুদূরপ্রসারী লক্ষ্যমাত্রা নির্ধারণ এবং
- ২) খাদ্য চাহিদার পর্যায়ক্রমিক সুদূরপ্রসারী পরিবর্তন বিবেচনায় নিয়ে খাদ্য প্রাপ্তি সংশ্লিষ্ট পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ।

৩.১.২. দৈহিক, মানসিক ও বুদ্ধিবৃত্তিক প্রয়োজন অনুসারে খাদ্য গ্রহণের মাত্রা নির্ধারণ

- ১) স্বাস্থ্যসমৃদ্ধ জাতি গঠনকল্পে সুসম খাদ্য সংস্থানের কাজিত লক্ষ্যমাত্রা নির্ধারণ এবং
- ২) শারীরিক গঠন ও পেশাভেদে সুসম খাদ্যের প্রয়োজনীয়তার নিরিখে জনপ্রতি গড় ক্যালরী চাহিদা নির্ধারণ।

৩.১.৩. প্রয়োজনীয় পুষ্টিচাহিদা পরিপূরণে সুসম খাদ্য সংস্থানকল্পে পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ

- ১) সুসম খাদ্য গ্রহণের কাজিত লক্ষ্য পর্যায়ক্রমে অর্জনে সংবলিত পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন এবং

- ২) খাদ্য ভোগের উপর নিয়মিত সমীক্ষার ভিত্তিতে বাংলাদেশের জন্য একটি নির্ভরযোগ্য ফুড ব্যালান্স শীট প্রস্তুত ও হালনাগাদকরণ।

৩.১.৪. সুলভতম ব্যয়ে সুখম খাদ্য সংস্থানকল্পে পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ

- ১) “সুখম খাদ্যভোগে সহায়ক” সুলভবায় সন্মিলিত স্থানীয় মেনুভিত্তিক খাদ্য তালিকা প্রস্তুতকরণ এবং
- ২) সুলভবায় সন্মিলিত সুখম খাদ্যের স্থানীয় পর্যায়ে উৎপাদনের মাধ্যমে প্রাপ্যতা বৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যে পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ।

কৌশল -৩.২. দুঃস্থ জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য পর্যাপ্ত পুষ্টিকর খাদ্য সরবরাহ

খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা নীতির প্রাণকেন্দ্র হচ্ছে পুষ্টিদায়ক খাদ্য (যেমন- ক্যালারী, আমিষ, চর্বি এবং তৈল ইত্যাদি) ভোগের নিশ্চয়তা প্রদান। দুঃস্থ জনগোষ্ঠী বিশেষ করে প্রতিবন্ধী, শিশু ও নারী (বিশেষতঃ কিশোরী, গর্ভবতী ও দুগ্ধদাত্রী মাতা)-দের পুষ্টির জন্য পর্যাপ্ত শর্করা, আমিষ, চর্বি ও তৈল সমৃদ্ধ খাদ্য প্রাপ্তি বৃদ্ধি করা প্রয়োজন। মুখ্য খাদ্য উপাদান (ম্যাক্রোনিউট্রিয়েন্ট) সমৃদ্ধ খাদ্য পর্যাপ্ত পরিমাণে গ্রহণ নিশ্চিতকল্পে সরকারের নীতি হবে এনজিও এবং উন্নয়নসহযোগীদের সাথে নিম্নোক্ত ক্ষেত্রে সমন্বিতভাবে কাজ করা :

- ১) দুঃস্থ জনগোষ্ঠী ও ব্যক্তি চিহ্নিত করণ ও খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা উন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যে পুষ্টি ভিত্তিক কর্মসূচি গ্রহণ এবং গোষ্ঠী পর্যায়ে উপযুক্ত কৌশল নির্ধারণ এবং
- ২) প্রতিবন্ধী সহায়ক শিক্ষা সুবিধা, মেয়েদের জন্য প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা, ক্ষুদ্র-ঋণ, দুঃস্থ জনগোষ্ঠীর প্রশিক্ষণ বিষয়ে উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে দুঃস্থ জনগোষ্ঠীর ক্ষমতায়ন।

কৌশল -৩.৩. পর্যাপ্ত মাইক্রোনিউট্রিয়েন্ট সম্পন্ন সুখম খাদ্য

বাংলাদেশের জনগণের জন্য স্বাস্থ্য উন্নয়নের জন্য পর্যাপ্ত শর্করা, আমিষ, তৈল ও চর্বি সমৃদ্ধ খাদ্যের পাশাপাশি লৌহ ও ভিটামিন এ'ও অন্যান্য মাইক্রোনিউট্রিয়েন্টসমৃদ্ধ খাদ্য গ্রহণ নিশ্চিত করা প্রয়োজন। এ লক্ষ্যে স্বল্প ব্যয়ের জনস্বাস্থ্য কর্মসূচি ও পুষ্টিশিক্ষা কর্মসূচি গ্রহণ ছাড়াও অপর সম্ভাবনাময় ও টেকসই পদ্ধতি হল প্রচলিত উদ্ভিদ প্রজননে জৈব দৃঢ়ীকরণের মাধ্যমে প্রধান খাদ্যশস্যে লৌহ ও ভিটামিন এ' সমৃদ্ধকরণ। অন্তর্বর্তী সময়ে ব্যয়-সাশ্রয়ী কার্যকর পদক্ষেপ হিসেবে খাদ্যে মাইক্রোনিউট্রিয়েন্ট পরিপূরণ ও সংযুক্তিকরণের (প্রতিষ্ঠিত যথাযথ গুণমান ও আইনগত ভিত্তিসহ) কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা দরকার। মাইক্রোনিউট্রিয়েন্টজনিত অপুষ্টির সুদূরপ্রসারী ক্ষতি বিবেচনা করে খাদ্যের লভ্যতা ও প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিমূলক কর্মসূচি ছাড়াও সরকার নিম্নোক্তভাবে পুষ্টির অভাব ও অসম পুষ্টিমান বিষয়ে পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করতে পারে।

৩.৩.১. পুষ্টি-শিক্ষা বিষয়ক কর্মসূচি - যার মধ্যে

- ১) সুখম খাদ্যগ্রহণ প্রসারকল্পে প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক ও অপ্রাতিষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম জোরদার ও গণমাধ্যমে সুখম খাদ্য বিষয়ে নির্দেশনামূলক প্রচারের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ;
- ২) বিশেষতঃ পল্লী এলাকায় গোষ্ঠী পর্যায়ে খাদ্যাভ্যাস পরিবর্তনমূলক কার্যকর প্রচার কর্মসূচি নিবিড়করণ এবং
- ৩) পুষ্টি-শিক্ষা বিষয়ে আদর্শ মডিউল উন্নয়নসহ বিভিন্ন শিক্ষা কর্মসূচিতে তা অন্তর্ভুক্তিকরণ।

৩.৩.২. খাবার বহুমুখীকরণ

- ১) উৎপাদনকারী পর্যায়ে ও বাজারে সজি প্রাপ্যতা বৃদ্ধির প্রেক্ষাপটে বহুমুখী পুষ্টিদায়ক খাবার গ্রহণ উৎসাহিত করার লক্ষ্যে বসতবাড়িতে সজি বাগান ও হাঁসমুরগী পালন প্রকল্প/কর্মসূচি গ্রহণ ও সম্প্রসারণ সেবা প্রদান।

৩.৩.৩. ফলপ্রসূ খাদ্য পরিপূরণ এবং সুরক্ষাকরণ (food supplementation and fortification)

- ১) আটা (খোসাসহ গমের ময়দা) এবং অন্যান্য প্রক্রিয়াজাতকৃত খাদ্যদ্রব্য সুরক্ষাকরণ (fortification);
- ২) মানুষ ও পশুর ব্যবহারোপযোগী লবণকে বাধ্যতামূলকভাবে আয়োডাইজেশন (iodisation); এবং
- ৩) পুষ্টি এবং খাদ্যবিষয়ক হস্তক্ষেপ কর্মসূচির মাধ্যমে সম্পূরক (supplementary) খাদ্য সরবরাহকরণ।

কৌশল -৩.৪. নিরাপদ খাবার পানি এবং উন্নত পয়ঃনিষ্কাশন

বর্তমানে ডায়রিয়াসহ অন্যান্য পানিবাহিত রোগের প্রকোপ ব্যাপকতর হওয়ায় নিরাপদ খাবার পানি ও স্বাস্থ্যসম্মত পয়ঃনিষ্কাশন ব্যবস্থা এদেশের পুষ্টিমান উন্নয়নে কার্যকর ভূমিকা রাখতে পারে। বর্তমানে বিদ্যমান ও পরিকল্পিত সুবিধাদির মধ্যে পানির গুণাগুণ পরীক্ষাকরণ (বিশেষতঃ খাবার পানিতে আর্সেনিকের মাত্রা নির্ধারণ) ও সীমিতকরণের প্রচেষ্টা সর্বাধিক গুরুত্ববহ।

নিরাপদ পানি এবং পয়ঃনিষ্কাশন উন্নয়নে সরকারের নীতি এবং কর্মসূচি নিম্নরূপ :

- ১) স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা যার মধ্যে শিশুদের সঠিক যত্ন ও পরিচর্যা এবং নিরাপদ পানীয় জল এবং রোগ প্রতিরোধের জন্য পয়ঃনিষ্কাশন পদ্ধতির ব্যবহারের গুরুত্ব অন্তর্ভুক্তি;

- ২) পানি সরবরাহ (কমিউনিটি টিউবওয়েল) এবং পয়ঃনিষ্কাশনে বিনিয়োগসহ অবকাঠামোগত উন্নয়ন; এবং
- ৩) পানির গুণাগুণ (বিশেষত আর্সেনিকের মাত্রা) পরীক্ষাকরণ ও বিদ্যমান সরকারী সুবিধাদির সম্প্রসারণ।

কৌশল -৩.৫. নিরাপদ ও গুণগত মানসম্পন্ন খাদ্য সরবরাহ

বর্তমান সময়ে নিরাপদ খাদ্যের লভ্যতা একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়। বর্তমানে প্রসারমান তৈরি খাদ্যসহ সকলপ্রকার মানসম্পন্ন খাদ্যের বাজরজাতকরণ সুবিধাদি উন্নয়নসহ গুণগতমান রক্ষণের জন্য বিপণন কার্যক্রমের বিভিন্ন পর্যায়ে (যথা- একত্রীকরণ, পরিচালন, বিন্যাসকরণ, প্রক্রিয়াজাতকরণ, মোড়কীকরণ ইত্যাদি ক্ষেত্রে) যত্নবান হওয়া প্রয়োজন। অভ্যন্তরীণ এবং বৈদেশিক উভয় বাণিজ্যের ক্ষেত্রে গুণগতমান বজায় রাখা খুবই গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। নিরাপদ খাদ্য সরবরাহ নিশ্চিতকরণের ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ব বাণিজ্য সংস্থা (WTO)-র আওতায় SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary), TBT (technical barrier to trade) চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরদাতা এবং কোডেক্স এলিমেন্টারীয়াস কমিশনের সদস্য। উৎপাদন পর্যায় থেকে খাবার গ্রহণ পর্যায় পর্যন্ত নিরাপদ খাদ্য সরবরাহ নিশ্চিতকরণে ঝুঁকি নিরূপণ ও রোধকরণ পদ্ধতি প্রাধান্য পেতে পারে। এজন্য বিদ্যমান বিধিবিধান যথাযথভাবে সংশোধনের মাধ্যমে সমন্বয়যোগ্য বিধিবিধান প্রণয়ন এবং বেসরকারী খাতের উদ্যোগকে উৎসাহিত করার মাধ্যমে নিরাপদ ও গুণগত মানসম্পন্ন খাদ্য সরবরাহ লক্ষ্যে নিম্নোক্ত কার্যক্রম সমূহ গ্রহণ করা হবে :

- ১) খাদ্যজাত পণ্যের সমন্বয় বিন্যাস, মান পদ্ধতির উন্নয়ন, মানদণ্ড প্রণয়ন, আরোপ ও বাধ্যতামূলক প্রয়োগ;
- ২) প্যাকিং বা মোড়কীকরণ পদ্ধতি উন্নয়নসহ নিরাপদ গুদামজাতকরণ সুবিধাদিতে বিনিয়োগ;
- ৩) খাদ্য ও খাদ্যজাত পণ্যের গুণাগুণ উন্নয়নে গবেষণাগারের সুবিধা ও প্রযুক্তিনির্ভর বাস্তবজ্ঞান প্রদান;
- ৪) খাদ্যজাত পণ্যের গুণাগুণ ও মান প্রতিপালনে সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তি ও সংস্থাকে প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান;
- ৫) পুষ্টি উন্নয়নকারী মানসম্পন্ন এবং নিরাপদ খাদ্যের বিষয়ে প্রচার; এবং
- ৬) খাদ্য উৎপাদন ও বাজার প্রক্রিয়ায় ক্ষতিকর সংযোজন দ্রব্য, সংরক্ষণ দ্রব্য এবং বিষাক্ত দ্রব্যের নির্বিচার ব্যবহার রোধকল্পে নিয়ন্ত্রণমূলক পদ্ধতির উদ্ভাবন ও প্রয়োগ।

কৌশল -৩.৬. পর্যাপ্ত স্বাস্থ্যমান

রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ শুধু পুষ্টি উন্নয়নেই অবদান রাখে না, সার্বিক স্বাস্থ্যমান উন্নয়নেও সহায়তা করে। পুষ্টি ও খাদ্যের সঠিক জৈবিক ব্যবহার বিষয়ে পুষ্টি, স্বাস্থ্য ও জনসংখ্যা সেবা প্যাকেজ (NHPS)-সহ এনজিও তথা উন্নয়নমূলক প্রতিষ্ঠানের সহযোগিতা ও সমন্বয়ে বাংলাদেশ সরকার বিভিন্ন কর্মসূচি পরিচালনা করছে। স্বাস্থ্য ও জনসংখ্যা সেবা প্যাকেজে নিম্নলিখিত বিষয়সমূহ অন্তর্ভুক্ত রয়েছে :

- ১) সম্প্রসারিত টিকাদান কর্মসূচি (ই.পি.আই), শ্বাস-প্রশ্বাস সংক্রান্ত জটিল ক্ষত নিয়ন্ত্রণ (এ.আর.আই), কলেরা এবং আন্ত্রিক রোগসমূহ প্রতিরোধ ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ;
- ২) প্রজনন স্বাস্থ্য কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়ন; এবং
- ৩) এনজিও সমূহের মাধ্যমে শিশু ও সক্ষম নারীদের ক্রমাগত দুর্বলতা এবং মাইক্রোনিউট্রিয়েন্টের অভাবজনিত রোগ বিষয়ে সচেতনতা সৃষ্টিসহ গোষ্ঠীভিত্তিক পুষ্টিসেবা বিতরণকল্পে জাতীয় পুষ্টি প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন।

৬. খাদ্যনীতি গবেষণা, বিশ্লেষণ এবং সমন্বয়

খাদ্য নিরাপত্তায় সকল আঙ্গিক (যথা- খাদ্যের লভ্যতা, খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা ও খাদ্যের জৈবিক ব্যবহার) একত্রিত হওয়ায় খাদ্যনীতি ক্রমশঃ জটিল আকার ধারণ করেছে। খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা নীতির এসকল আঙ্গিক সরকারের বিভিন্ন মন্ত্রণালয়, দপ্তর ও সংস্থাসমূহের বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানের সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্যক্রম দ্বারা বাস্তবায়িত হবে। বিশ্ববাণিজ্য ও খাদ্য সাহায্যের পরিবেশ পরিবর্তনের দ্বারা বর্তমান নীতি-কৌশল প্রভাবিত হচ্ছে যা খাদ্যনীতিকে ভবিষ্যতের জন্য নতুন চ্যালেঞ্জের সন্মুখীন করছে। এক্ষেত্রে নীতি নির্ধারকগণ কর্মসূচি প্রণয়ন, পরিবীক্ষণ, মূল্যায়ন এবং কার্যাবলী সমন্বিতকরণে বাধার সন্মুখীন হতে পারে। খাদ্যনীতি কাঠামোর আওতায় জাতীয় পর্যায়ে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা উন্নয়নবিষয়ক কার্যাবলীর সমন্বয় করা প্রয়োজন। এক্ষেত্রে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বিষয়ক নীতি-কৌশলসমূহ বাস্তবায়নের লক্ষ্যে স্থানীয় ও অনান্য পর্যায়ের কর্তৃপক্ষই সুসমন্বিত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করতে পারে।

খাদ্যনীতি প্রণয়ন বা হালনাগাদকরণ ও সফলভাবে বাস্তবায়নের জন্য নীতি-নির্ধারকগণ কর্তৃক বিকল্পসমূহ সম্পর্কে সুস্পষ্টভাবে মর্ম উপলব্ধি করার লক্ষ্যে সম্ভাব্য পন্থাসমূহের বিবরণসহ ইঙ্গিত ফলাফল হাতে থাকতে হবে। এ বিষয়ে একটি সুস্পষ্ট চিত্র সৃষ্টির জন্য (ক) তথ্য সরবরাহের ধারাবাহিকতা বজায়; (খ) তথ্যসমূহের বিশ্লেষণ; (গ) খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা পরিবেশের গতি প্রকৃতির পরিবর্তন সম্পর্কে ধারণা; (ঘ) পর্যাপ্ত সংখ্যক বিকল্প; (ঙ) স্থানীয় ও বিশ্ববাজারে খাদ্য সরবরাহ ও বাণিজ্য পরিস্থিতি সম্পর্কে স্বল্প ও দীর্ঘ মেয়াদী পূর্বাভাস ইত্যাদি আবশ্যিক। খাদ্যনীতি বিশ্লেষক ও গবেষকগণ ক্রমাগতভাবে গবেষণা ও বিশ্লেষণের মাধ্যমে নীতি নির্ধারকদের জন্য ভবিষ্যতে সম্ভাব্য যে ধরনের তথ্যাদি প্রয়োজন হতে পারে তার আগাম ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করবে।

সামগ্রিক খাদ্যনীতি কাঠামোর আওতায় খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বিষয়ক কর্মসূচি প্রণয়ন, সম্পদ আহরণ, সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে সচল ও শক্তিশালীকরণ প্রয়োজন। বর্তমানে জাতীয় পর্যায়ে খাদ্য ও দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা মন্ত্রীর সভাপতিত্বে গঠিত “খাদ্য পরিকল্পনা ও পরিধারণ

কমিটি” খাদ্যের ব্যবহার ও পুষ্টি বিষয়সহ সামগ্রিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা প্রচেষ্টাসমূহের পরিকল্পনা এবং ফলাফল পরিবীক্ষণ করবে। খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা কার্যক্রম সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল মন্ত্রণালয় (যথাঃ খাদ্য ও দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা, অর্থ, পরিকল্পনা, কৃষি, মৎস্য ও পশুসম্পদ, স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায়, মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়)-এর প্রতিনিধি এ কমিটিতে অন্তর্ভুক্ত থাকবে - যেখানে খাদ্যনীতির সকল আঙ্গিকের অগ্রগতির বিষয় আলোচিত হবে এবং খাদ্যনীতি বিষয়ক কর্মসূচি প্রণয়নের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় দিক নির্দেশনা দেয়া হবে।

চ. উপসংহার

খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার জন্য পর্যাপ্ত খাদ্য লভ্যতা অপরিহার্য হলেও পারিবারিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার উল্লেখযোগ্য উন্নয়নের জন্য যথেষ্ট নয়। পারিবারিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা উন্নয়নে দরিদ্র জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধি ও খাদ্যের যথাযথ জৈবিক ব্যবহার নিশ্চিতকরণের মাধ্যমে পুষ্টি বিধানে সর্বাঙ্গিক প্রচেষ্টা গ্রহণ করা প্রয়োজন। অভ্যন্তরীণ কৃষিতে দক্ষতা অর্জনসহ শস্য ও অশস্য খাদ্যের লভ্যতা বৃদ্ধি, দরিদ্র জনগোষ্ঠীর আয় টেকসইভাবে বৃদ্ধির মাধ্যমে খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির ক্ষমতা অর্জন এবং শিক্ষা ও স্বাস্থ্য পরিচর্যার মাধ্যমে অপুষ্টির শিকার ব্যক্তির খাদ্যের কার্যকর ব্যবহার নিশ্চিতকরণের মাধ্যমে সার্বিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা সুসংহতকরণ সম্ভব। আশা করা যায় যে, প্রণীত খাদ্যনীতির সুষ্ঠু বাস্তবায়নের মাধ্যমে দেশের জনগণ তাদের কাক্ষিত খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা ভোগ করতে সক্ষম হবে। এ নীতির সাথে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা বৃদ্ধিমূলক অন্যান্য নীতি-কৌশল সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণভাবে গ্রহণ করা হবে। প্রয়োজনবোধে সরকারী আদেশ জারির মাধ্যমে প্রণীত নীতি বাস্তবায়নোপযোগী করা হবে।

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